



Spring Fair draws largest crowd in years

By JENNY KLEIN
For The News-Letter

From fireworks to fried Oreos, the offerings at this year's Spring Fair attracted people from all walks of life to the Homewood campus.

An estimated 20,000 people attended the Spring Fair festivities this year, the highest count recorded in recent years. Although Sunday was noticeably less busy due to the cool, damp weather, even these conditions were far superior to last year's rainy weekend.

The Spring Fair Committee's efforts were particularly evident on Thursday night's opening fireworks display.

"I was really impressed with the turnout. It seemed like the largest on-campus event that I've been to in a while. I've never seen so many Hopkins students at an event. I'm glad the University finally agreed to host them," sophomore Catherine Goldstead said when the show was over.

Earning the approval by the University, city and state for the fireworks display took several months and cost \$3,500. The Committee took extra precautions to ensure that students would be far away from the fireworks and that the show would not pose a fire hazard or damage school lawns or buildings. They also informed nearby residents that the show was going to take place.

Held since 1971, the annual student-run Fair is one the most anticipated events of year. Over 30 food vendors, a beer garden, carnival rides, a petting zoo, live performers and art booths filled the campus last weekend.

Another well-attended Fair event

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CONOR KEVIT/PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF

Spring Fair 2008 opened with a blast as fireworkers lit up the Homewood Campus last Thursday.

Hopkins Engaged attempts to gain momentum

By RISHI TRIVEDI
For The News-Letter

With Hopkins Engaged still in planning stages, coordinators are saying that there is a lot of work left to be done.

Freshman Dan Teran, co-coordinator of the event that is being billed as the largest political gathering on any Ameri-

can campus, is still optimistic that the event will happen this fall despite setbacks in the timeline.

The organizers have yet to submit a budget.

Teran said it is difficult to come up with a budget without finalized events, but without a budget it's hard to come up with finalized events.

"The budget depends on support from the administration," Teran said.

However as of now, Dean of Undergraduate Education and vice provost Paula Burger, who was very enthused upon first receiving the proposal sent out by Teran and Justin Waite, his co-coordinator, has yet to receive any updates.

To help Teran and Waite, a steering committee has been formed composed of presidents from Hopkins's most politically charged student groups.

The steering committee is in charge of planning both the direction and the events that will compose Hopkins Engaged.

The first task of the steering committee will be to come up with a

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LAURA BITNER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A practicing Muslim *News-Letter* reporter took on the challenge of adhering to the rules of Passover, which included eating kosher for the entire week and attending a seder.

Muslim reporter explores Judaism, adheres to strict laws of Passover

By HUSAIN DANISH
Special Editions Editor

As I took the last bites of my ham sandwich, I stared silently at the clock. Five minutes left. What had I gotten myself into? In five minutes, the sun would set and my journey to enlightenment would begin.

My goal was to understand the Jewish experience by celebrating Passover according to Orthodox custom. Passover initially appeared to me as an easier version of Ramadan, a holiday I am quite used to celebrating. Rather than fasting from sunrise to sunset for an entire month, I would simply restrict my diet for eight days. Piece of cake.

I am not sure exactly why I took this assignment. Curiosity? A love of reli-

gion? Did I see it as a chance to prove my manliness? Did I do just because I could? Maybe it was a combination of all the above, or maybe none of them. Maybe it was just a spur-of-the-moment decision. To be honest, it doesn't matter.

When I told my Jewish friend Aaron about my new venture, he laughed. I assumed he was then going to lament the difficulty of the holiday and tell me that I should not go forth this experiment. He had, however, quite a different response.

"That's cool," he said. I stared at him, slightly shocked, confused by his response; but what he said next I did not expect at all.

"You can celebrate Passover and follow all the rules as strictly as possible,"

CONTINUED ON PAGE A2

Hopkins students and faculty balance science and religion

By LENA DENIS
News-Letter Staff Writer

Hopkins is one of the only major private institutions in the country without any historical religious affiliation. Yet, some Hopkins professors struggle to reconcile evolution, a theory accepted by the scientific community, with religious beliefs found at Hopkins.

Investigation into the teaching of various Hopkins courses reveals a variety of approaches to teaching of evolution, as some professors seek to distance evolution (a scientific theory) from intelligent design theory (which they believe has less of a scientific basis), while other address both theories in their classrooms.

"The University is simultaneously a place where people come together — for many aspects of their lives — and a place that [scholarly] activity is put in a particular place of respect and honor," said Adam Falk, dean of the Krieger School of Arts and Sciences.

"Students interact with all sorts of issues both through the scholarly

lens and through the personal kind of lens, and those go far beyond creationism and evolution," he said.

Falk is also a physics professor who teaches quantum mechanics. As someone who focuses on observation and rigorous proof to validate hypotheses, Falk worries that creationists are trying to insert their beliefs into educational curricula and "manipulate the scientific method."

"My view is that a lot of the conflict around issues like creationism comes from a confusion about what science is — people have a desire to cast arguments as scientific because in our culture that's a way of praising them," Falk said.

According to Falk, students have every right to believe what they believe, but they must follow the mandates of the discipline in which they are currently working, whether it is in a scientific context or another controversial study like history or politics.

"People from all cultures and religions embrace the scientific

CONTINUED ON PAGE A3



JESSIE YOUNG/PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF
Freshmen chose to live in Vincent House for the substance-free atmosphere.

Residents violate substance-free dorm contract

By GISELLE CHANG
For The News-Letter

According to several past and current residents of substance-free university housing, the contract that distinguishes the dorm from any other is broken multiple times each year.

Students who intend to live in substance-free housing are required to sign an agreement that they will not bring the effects of alcohol or drugs back to their dorm.

But many current residents claim that AMR's Vincent House is anything but substance-free.

Shelly Fickau, Director of Residential Life, claimed that students are drawn to the dorm's "close community and respect for health."

Many students, however, say they chose substance-free housing because their parents made them.

"My parents clicked the box and told me I was doing substance-free housing. I would not have made this decision ... no, no, no," said one resident, who chose to remain anonymous.

This student admitted that he frequently keeps alcohol in his refrigerator, and that he is aware of at least seven floormates who also use illegal substances.

Eight students directly reported breaking the contract.

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Seniors to face tougher job market

In wake of recession, seniors expect more competition

By MARIE CUSHING
News-Letter Staff Writer

Employers are expected to hire half as many new college graduates than they estimated last summer, according to the National Association of Colleges (NACE).

Although Hopkins seniors are entering the workforce during a time of economic uncertainty, advisers in the Career Center remain optimistic that job opportunities should still remain available to them.

"No matter what is going on economy, there are going to be jobs open," Dawna Milligan, Senior Associate Director at the Career Center, said. "We're still seeing our students in a good place right now."

As an economics major, senior Amanuel Alemu hoped to take a job in the financial sector, but when he began looking for a position, Alemu found the job market was too competitive.

"Usually where they would hire like 100 people, for example, out of college, everything got too competitive, so maybe they would take 20 instead," he said.

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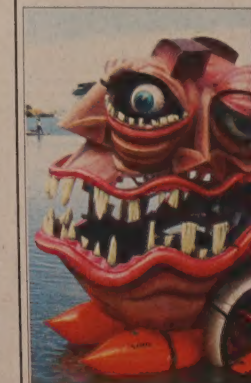
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• Scout out a new kind of amazing race as moving art sculptures compete against each other for dominance over land, sea and mud in Federal Hill, B2.



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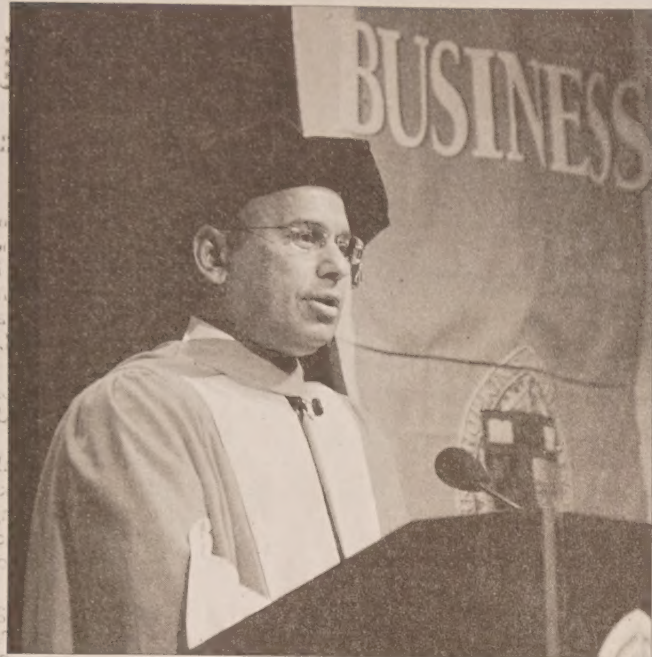
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NEWS & FEATURES



ANGELI BUENO/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Yash Gupta was inducted as the first dean of the Carey Business School last Friday.

Yash Gupta inducted as first dean of Carey School

By MING WEN
News & Features Editor

The Johns Hopkins Carey Business School has officially acquired a dean a year after initially opening.

Yash Gupta was initiated as the first dean of the Johns Hopkins Carey Business School last Friday.

Principal members of the administration, along with William Carey, whose \$50 million donation made the founding of the business school possible, attended in full academic regalia.

The opening speech, given by Pamela Flaherty, chair of the Board of Trustees at Hopkins, traced the history of business at Hopkins and touched on the impact Hopkins could have in the world of business education.

Flaherty praised trustee emeritus Carey for his exemplary service.

She focused on introducing Gupta with a lengthy enumeration of his credentials, which include previous positions as the dean of schools of business at the University of Colorado at Denver, the University of Washington and most recently, the University of Southern California.

"Yash Gupta is a remarkable man. He has boundless energy,

passion and enthusiasm for the challenging task ahead," Flaherty said.

"He is a man of high principle. He is a visionary, an optimist who believes completely in the opportunities."

Gupta took the stage amid thunderous applause and outlined the interdisciplinary approach Hopkins would take towards business education.

He also described a broad business vision of empowering change throughout the world.

"The power and the possibilities of business to change the world for the better enthralled me as a young man, and it continues to excite me today," Gupta said.

"Business is the engine that transforms the world," he added.

According to Gupta, the value of ethical business practices should be instilled in Hopkins students, as well as growth fostered by a transparent and stable society.

"If we educate our students in business without grounding them in value, we will have provided them a ticket without a clear understanding of where they are going," Gupta said.

The ceremony ended with the presentation of the business school's first dean's medal to Carey.

Muslim student rises to the kosher challenge

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

Aaron said. "But what will it mean to you? Like, what if I celebrated Ramadan with you for the entire month; would it have the same meaning for me as it does for you?"

I didn't know what to say. Maybe out of arrogance, I stored his advice in the back of my mind with the vain hope that I would forget it. I wasn't ready to listen. I thanked him for his comments and carried on with my day.

My next task was to find out what I actually had to do for this holiday. I talked to practically every Jewish student I knew on campus, and each told me something different about the holiday. Each rule not only revealed the splendid variations in the customs and traditions of Jewish culture but also the uniqueness of each distinct family tradition. Like the beliefs and customs of any faith, the rules of Passover appeared convoluted and confusing to an outsider like me.

In the end, I decided to adhere to the rules of Passover followed by the Chasidic Jews. I was prohibited from eating leavened bread, corn, beans and rice. Of course, this meant I couldn't eat anything made from these items including corn starch, corn oil, corn syrup and soy. No soda, no chocolate, no FFC French fries.

I would adhere to the strict laws of Kashrut and keep kosher. This didn't appear to be much of a problem; almost all the laws of Kashrut are the same as the dietary restrictions in my own religion, Islam. I also did not adhere to any customs that conflicted with my own religion, such as the drinking of wine during Seder.

As part of the holiday, I planned to attend a Sedar, a religious ceremony, to mark the first night of Passover. To be honest, I was slightly nervous. I had attended religious services before, even Sabbath programs, but this was different. This, I felt, somehow had a deeper significance.

Passover is a time of remembrance, a time to mark the emancipation of the Israelites from bondage and their exodus from Egypt. It is a time to honor tradition, to remember the past and celebrate the Jewish heritage. I felt as though I stepped into a world quite alien and different from the one I knew.

The evening was spent reading prayers, singing and celebrating. Of all the prayers I listened to

that night, there is one I remember most distinctly — an excerpt from the Haggadah [prayer book] entitled "Four Sons."

"The wicked son asks his father, 'What is this service to you?' He says 'to you,' but not to him! By thus excluding himself from the community he has denied that which is fundamental."

The days passed quickly; Sunday became Monday, Monday became Wednesday, and Wednesday became Friday. I was nearing the end of my journey. Yet, what had I accomplished? I had spent almost a week abiding by Passover's many rules yet I still did not understand the true meaning of the holiday.

I went and asked my friends and got many different responses. Some said Passover represented suffering, and others told me freedom and tradition. But none of this had any meaning for me. This was not my family's tradition, nor was it my people's freedom. Sure, it was not fun eating matzah every day, but I was not really suffering.

The problem was not the responses I received but the question itself. I asked, "What does Passover mean to you?" when I should have asked, "What does Passover mean to me?" I was reminded of Aaron's comment. True, Passover does not mean the same to me as it does to the believer, but it does not mean it cannot have meaning for me.

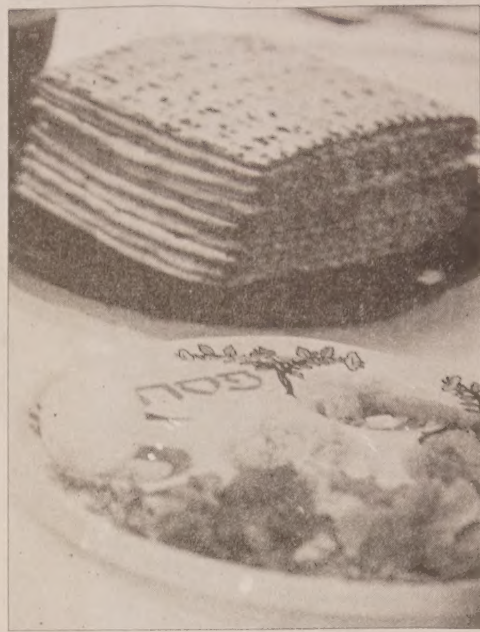
I wish I could read Hebrew. I wish I could have read the Torah and tried to understand what the Jewish experience was, what it meant to be Jewish. Alas, this was not an option. How was I to understand what Passover meant to me without knowing what

Judaism was about?

At that moment, I looked over and saw my Koran on the bookshelf. It was a familiar book, a source of guidance, of solace. Maybe, I thought, there is another way for me to understand Passover. I reached for the Koran, covered my head as custom, and began to read. I read the story of the Bani Israel who prayed to Allah for salvation; of Allah, who did not ignore the prayers of his people and brought them salvation; of the mother of Moses, who by God's mercy was not forever separated from her son. It came to me then. Passover, at least for me, was a celebration of God's mercy, of Adonai's love for his children. Though we may feel as though God has abandoned us, in the end he is still listening.

Sunday evening had arrived, and my celebration of Passover was coming to an end. On this last night of Passover, I went to Hopkins Hillel for the prayer service. Though at first, the prayer room appeared strange, the more I looked around, the more I felt at home, as though I were at my own mosque.

When Rabbi Binyamin saw



LAURA BITNER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jews who observe Passover eat Matzah instead of bread.

me, he came over, introduced himself and asked me my name. I introduced myself and told him why I was here, of my journey through Passover and how I felt at home. And there we began to share our respective faiths and rather than finding drastically different and conflicting beliefs, we found harmony. Rather than a clash of civilizations, there was a universal brotherhood.

Despite the obvious differences on the surface, all religions strive for one great ambition: to explain man's role in the universe and to understand his relation with a higher power, whether we call it God, Adonai, Allah, Atman or our own common humanity.

Charity provides homeless with healthcare

By CHIP HARSH
For The News-Letter

Health Care for the Homeless, a Maryland non-profit organization, has its niche in Baltimore.

HCH began 23 years ago as part of a national demonstration project funded by the Robert Wood Grant Foundation. HCH provides health care and housing for the homeless, including medical care, mental health, social services and addiction treatment to more than 5,000 people in Baltimore.

The homeless served by HCH earn wages below the poverty

line and 80 percent lack health insurance.

The year that the center opened, HCH served 700 homeless people in Baltimore. This past year, 110 staff members served over 6,000 of the estimated 30,000 homeless residents in Baltimore.

They benefited from a wide range of services including medical services, mental health services, addiction treatment and HIV services.

"The organization is not interested in putting Band-Aids on people and putting them back on the street but actually making a difference," Vice President of External Affairs Kevin Lindamood said.

According to the HCH Web site, about 80 percent of the homeless in the program do not have health insurance and 50 percent suffer from treatable addiction, while 35 percent are diagnosed with a mental disease and 25 percent are "dually diagnosed."

"Homelessness is a symptom of the broader problem of poverty," Kevin Lindamood added. "And the homeless we see have more than one medical problem — addiction plus medical problems."

Social workers use multiple public and private state health programs for those without health care.

"We live in a nation that is virtually alone among our industrialized partners in not providing health care as a right," Kevin Lindamood expressed his opinion on the status of American national health care, "Someone can become bankrupt because they cannot pay their medical bills."

This August, Health Care for the Homeless is expected to break ground on a brand new building at the corner of Hillens and Falls Streets in downtown Baltimore.

The new building will allow for new services including Maryland's first dental program for homeless children and adults as well as a pediatric center for homeless children.

The new facility is expected to help an increased number of

homeless when it opens in January 2010. The new building will also allow the social workers to help more homeless people get the help they need and find affordable long-term housing more profitably.

Most benefactors of the organization are on 10-year plans that include permanent housing, a consistent job and affordable health care.

The Baltimore city project also funds four surrounding counties and directs Health Care for the Homeless projects throughout Maryland, eventually helping 9,000 homeless children and adults.

Health Care for the Homeless is consistently and persistently broadening and strengthening its programs.

For example, a pilot program serving 100 people, which started less than three years ago, is now government-funded to provide the homeless with housing immediately.

"Housing is not a reward but a human right," Kevin Lindamood said, "and that is why the program put folks directly in housing and then offered very intensive services. Participation in services was not a prerequisite for housing."

Health Care for the Homeless is tackling the homeless problem, not "managing" homelessness, according to Lindamood.

"For too long [the government] has looked at [homelessness] as the fault of an individual," Lindamood said.

Hopkins is rooted in the organization, as one of the founding board members was a Hopkins psychiatrist.

Although no students are currently involved in the charity, Health Care for the Homeless has had volunteers from Hopkins undergraduate and graduate schools, especially from psychology graduate student rotations.

Students interested in public health, social work or generally interested in improving Baltimore city first-hand can contact Health Care for the Homeless via their Web site, <http://www.hshmd.org>, or send an e-mail to: info@hchmd.org.



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NEWS & FEATURES



Carrie Bennett has been Alpha Delta Phi's resident house adult since its move.

FILE PHOTO

Bennett improves student standings with community

By PAYAL PATNAIK
News & Features Editor

Carrie Bennett has been living in an apartment building filled with college fraternity boys for the past three years.

As a resident house adult who moved into to Alpha Delta Phi's new apartment in summer 2005, she is affectionately known as Alpha Delta Phi's "house mom."

"I think you'd have to be a little crazy, have a lot of patience and a good sense of humor to do something like that," chapter advisor Ed Donahue said.

"I think it is fantastic," Carrie Bennett said. "It was an experiment."

Approximately 10 years into her job on the campus police force, Bennett read a *News-Letter* article proposing that a position as a liaison between students and the community should be created due to the increase of neighborhood complaints about Hopkins students branching away from Homewood campus. Three years later, when Bennett was a sergeant and had no other position to earn other than lieutenant, a more administrative job, she took on the job as student community liaison.

She was simultaneously offered the position as the live-in house adult at Wawa, which was relocating to its current building on North Charles Street.

"When we bought a new building and sold our old chapter house, we were not able to spend three million dollars and turn it over to 18 to 21-year-olds without adult supervision," Donahue said. "We wanted a calming influence to the place, not someone to replace their mother or disciplinarian, but to encourage them to behave like adults."

According to Donahue, the alumni association was planning to advertise within the faculty for a graduate student to live at the building and take RA training. He called Dean of Student Life Susan Boswell for suggestions, who mentioned Bennett's name.

"She said I was the only person crazy enough to take the job," Bennett said, laughing.

"The boys weren't enthused at first, because that was a fairly radical departure from the status quo. It wasn't really negotiable," Donahue said. "But since then, the guys love her, even if it took some convincing at first."

Alpha Delta Phi's standing with the Hopkins administration went up without too much hindered fun, Carrie Bennett said, adding she was proudest of this accomplishment since it reaped tangible benefits for the fraternity.

"We've decided to do that nationally — we're encouraging local alumni of Alpha Delta Phi to give a long and hard thought of going

back to the concept of a house mother," Donahue said.

"It's been rewarding, but I was very worried. I didn't know if people were going to be happy having an adult in there," Bennett said.

Bennett moved in the summer of 2005 to bond with the brothers living there over the summer. Bennett pinpointed the last day of her move-in as the first time that she felt a sense of acceptance.

"I was bringing my last load to the house and my car was packed to the ceiling. I pulled up front at 11 p.m. and one of the brothers asked if I was the house mom. Fifteen brothers came out and emptied my car," she said.

"I just help them not do blatantly obvious things," Bennett said, recounting an incident a few years ago during which she had to intervene in a police situation.

The move of Alpha Delta Phi to North Charles Street helped its reputation considerably, according to Bennett. Because there are few non-affiliated neighbors, the fraternity does not get too many complaints.

"We've fallen off the radar," Bennett said.

"Other fraternities have moved into established areas, so it's more of a challenge in other neighborhoods."

Bennett believes that her position as a live-in adult is only a microcosm of her job as student community liaison.

"Carrie has realized, with regards to reducing student-neighbor tensions, she has done a terrific job of balancing the interests of students, community and the University's administration," said Salem Reiner, the director of the Office of Community Affairs.

According to Reiner, 107 complaints were registered against Hopkins students in 2007, which is a decrease of complaints from the 235 complaints filed in 2006 and 300 in 2004.

"The significant and proactive work by Bennett played a large role in producing the above noted outcomes, as did the leadership of the Charles Village Civic Association which provided valuable guidance," Reiner said.

Bennett said that she is now even more convinced of the need to have a fraternity row, pointing out that, "fraternities have difficulties with zoning issues and the availability of good pieces of property."

Bennett said there should be a Greek row close to campus, possibly along North Charles Street, that reduces exposure to non-affiliated students.

Three main problems that a fraternity row would encounter are zoning from the city, obtaining money from alumni and buying property rights from the University itself.

Continued from Page A1 method, and that's an important attribute of the University that should continue," Gregory Ball, professor from Psychological and Brain Sciences department, said.

Ball pointed out that the speaker at the founding of Hopkins was T.H. Huxley, prominent scientist known as "Darwin's bulldog" because of his support of evolutionary theory.

Ball expects his students to keep with the scientific tradition, especially since he discusses evolution in his classes.

"Creationism in terms of a theory that can explain biological phenomena isn't really viable right now, so there aren't real serious attempts to test creationist ideas, and there are attempts to question current ideas about evolution. These will continue, as they should in any healthy science," Ball said.

But scientists must see the limitations of their studies, Falk said. Science can answer many questions, but not all of them.

"Science does not pretend to answer the question why are we here. Faith is, almost by definition, that set of beliefs one has about the world for reasons that are other than one's observation of it," he said.

"I think in a lot of ways, science can talk about the how, and religion and God can talk about the why," Hopkins Fellowship of Christian Athletes President Matt Benchener said.

For him, it was important to seek solutions for more abstract ontological questions in addition to scientific ones, which led him to becoming a Christian several years ago in hopes of answering, "Where did it come from?"

He recalled being an evolution enthusiast in high school and later tempering his ideas after becoming a Christian.

Benchener believes that microevolution is valid because it is observable, but thinks that the theory of macroevolution needs to be further questioned.

According to Benchener, certain tenets such as analogous structures in animals did not seem valid.

He cited that Darwin himself admitted that his theory could never be proven unless the entire fossil record was found, which is not close to happening.

Peter Achinstein, professor of philosophy of science, taught an experimental course on the controversy several years ago entitled Special Topics in Philosophy of Science: Evolution vs. Intelligent Design.

But the course was not deemed a success and he has not taught it since.

"My purpose in the course was to look at some material from scientists who talk about God," said Peter Achinstein, referring to the cases of René Descartes and Isaac Newton, two scientists who proved the existence of God.

"They [Descartes and Newton] gave rational arguments for the existence of God," Achinstein explained, saying that Newton's reasons were empirical and Descartes's reasons were *a priori*.

Newton believed that the arrangement of the planets was too orderly to be an accident explained by science; therefore a higher power had to be the answer.

Similarly, Descartes's idea of how God created the universe led him to develop cornerstones of physics, including the law of conservation of mass.

In class, students have to grapple with these and more contemporary arguments for intelligent design.

"The first thing that jumps out as the most surprising was that aside from the two graduate students in this 400-level philos-

ophy course, nobody openly embraced evolutionary theory," Victor Difate, a philosophy graduate student and teaching assistant to Achinstein, said.

Difate thinks that the number of Hopkins students who reject the validity of Darwin's theories is larger than most would expect.

He was not sure if there were any more than two supporters of evolutionary theory in his small class.

He did notice that other students tried to reconcile science with religion and made "vague" arguments in class.

Many others never spoke. Two students in particular were firm creationists.

"Both of them seemed to want to believe that species evolved, but

more than a social illusion to create order.

While she does not agree with Freud, she understands that what she is assigned is a part of historical and philosophical thought of which she should be informed, Sofia said.

"People on both sides, whether it's Christians or non-Christians, or Christians who believe in evolution or whatever — because there's a whole gamut — just need to really examine both truths," Benchener said.

"I know a lot of Christians unfortunately who will kind of blindly reject evolution without really studying it and say, well, that's not true. And I don't think that's right. We have a responsibility to really find out what the truth is."

molecules in his classes.

"I try to make it clear to students that DNA is evolving and has been evolving and a lot of it can be traced back to earlier ancestors, and even the ancestral DNA sequence can be inferred," Cunningham said.

He added that this evolution can be "proven beyond the shadow of a doubt."

He said that his students allow for ambiguities and make allowances like multiplying Biblical ages by 10 to get an accurate set of dates for the age of the Earth.

"I think students tend to figure out some way of melding their religious beliefs with the scientific evidence that has been collected," he said.

Cunningham called Biblical stories "amazing parables" by which everybody could live their lives, but is cautious to maintain that they should not be relied on for scientific fact.

"I think the creation story in the book of Genesis is actually consistent in a rudimentary sense with the evolution of life forms on the planet," Cunningham said.

He cited that the order given in Genesis of the creation of species is actually more or less aligned with evolutionary theory.

But the Sun does not revolve around the Earth, nor is the Earth flat, so scientific fact should be sought elsewhere.

Cunningham also cited a book by Dean Hamer called *The God Gene*, in which the author ventures that spirituality is not connected to religious fervor for many people and may be conclusive evidence that God exists.

When he considered this hypothesis, Cunningham drew a conclusion that made him chuckle.

"Evolution may be the proof that God exists. Wouldn't that be funny?"

I think students tend to figure out some way of melding their religious beliefs with the scientific evidence that has been collected.

— KYLE CUNNINGHAM,
PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGY

"In terms of science, generally I don't have a problem. In fact, it sort of supports my faith and proves it to myself that it is real.

I don't think evolution necessarily implies that God doesn't exist or that God didn't create man," junior physics major Shekeab

Jauhari said.

Jauhari is Muslim, and like Benchener, she does not agree with the fundamentalist voices in his religious community.

"Our knowledge as human beings is limited. There is only so much that we do know that we can conceive of," Jauhari said.

"Up to this point science has never conflicted with the teachings of my religion," she said.

Biology professor Kyle Cunningham teaches genetics and often discusses the evolution of

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CORRECTIONS

In the April 24 issue, on page A1, the photo of Matthew Crenson should have been credited to Will Kirk.

The *News-Letter* regrets this error.

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Future graduates face shrinking job market

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

After months of economic turbulence, financial firms that had originally predicted robust hiring have decreased the number of entry-level positions.

Twenty-seven percent of the employed 2007 Hopkins graduates are employed in business and finance. Job placement statistics for 2008 are not compiled until six months after graduation.

"I think overall it's still a positive. It's not decreases across the board," NACE Employment Information Manager Andrea Koncz said.

Despite these economic downturns, NACE forecasts that graduates will be hired at an eight percent higher rate than in 2007.

According to Koncz, government agencies will increase hiring of new graduates by 33 percent, business services by around 19 percent and utilities by 50 percent.

According to Milligan, any economic impact on graduate job opportunities will not be seen until fall recruiting. "The juniors right now need to make sure they are networking and starting the job search early, especially if they are thinking finance," she said.

Alemu decided instead to pursue a master's in applied economics, in hopes that the degree would make it easier for him to find a job later.

While many Hopkins graduates pursue higher degrees — including 45 percent of the class of 2007 — Milligan said students should be conscious of maintaining a balance. "You never want to be over-educated and under-experienced," she said.

Hopkins students who had received offers from Bear Stearns

before the financial firm's collapse were assisted in finding positions elsewhere, Milligan said.

Milligan saw a difference in employer commitment between the current market and the dot com bust and subsequent economic downturn in 2001.

"When it went bust we did see either rescinded offers or deferred offers. We have not seen anything like that at all," Milligan said.

National unemployment rose to 5.1 percent in March — the highest in three years, according to the Department of Labor.

The Career Center is preparing for further decreases in the job market.

"We're talking to contacts. We have already prepared campus recruiting for the fall, and at the same time we're really utilizing our networks," Milligan said.

Milligan credited the stability of job opportunities for Hopkins graduates to the University's alumni.

"Our alumni have been very loyal, probably more than any group we've seen when it comes to hiring Hopkins graduates," she said.

Though senior Arthur Chang has not yet started the job search, he is not concerned.

"I'm not too worried," the electrical engineering major said. "In tech, it's not really a big issue. There are still big players out there like Google and Microsoft that are hiring like crazy."

Koncz felt graduates in the sciences should be comforted by the predicted eight percent hiring increase in the manufacturing industries.

— Additional reporting by Max McKenna

Physics Fair draws young visitors and participants

By ALEX STILL
For The News-Letter

This past Saturday afternoon, the physics department hosted its fifth annual Physics Fair, transforming the Bloomberg Physics and Astronomy Building into a bastion of science. The building's floors and courtyard were filled with observers of the various physics experiments.

Judging by the conspicuous presence of a large trebuchet strategically placed in front of the building, one could suppose that this was no ordinary weekend.

Freshman physics major Jake Mokris, a member of the crew of excited students preparing the catapult-like device for fire, described his fascination with the fair and his decision to volunteer. "I had actually seen the Physics Fair two years earlier, and it was one thing that made me want to come here. I liked how students were involved with the professors and in playing with the demos."

The crew drew a large crowd as they fired melons down the hills facing the Homewood campus. They explained the capabilities of their powerful device while bystanders scampered after their shots, measuring the distances.

The Physics Fair featured an array of physics demonstrations and exhibits. It was an effort to reach out to the local school community and to present some of the innovative research taking place at the University.

Professor Bruce Barnett, the fair's chief organizer and the man responsible for first creating the event here at Hopkins five years ago, described how the fair began.

"This was my idea of getting out into the local community. I wanted to connect university research with high school teachers, and to try and get more people, particularly high school students, informed and interested in science," Barnett said.

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BRITNI CROCKER/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

The Fair allowed visitors to have a hair-raising experience with a Vander Graff Generator, a device that generates static electricity.

including Quarknet, the National Science Foundation and other physics-based scientific companies, Barnett sought to provide both a stage to show off some of the department's work and to give local area high and middle school students a chance to compete and become more interested in science.

The fair included two separate challenges in physics and other sciences, with prizes awarded to the best performers in two different groups — middle school students and high school students.

"We deliberately have the event the same weekend of the Spring Fair to attract people visiting the campus," physics professor Morris Swartz said. The added influx of visitors was noticeable, and part of a well-received trend.

"Each year [the fair] has grown in scope and popularity. There are over 100 different demonstrations running, and we expect 500 to 1,000 people to come today," Swartz said.

Bloomberg's first-floor labs were filled with demonstrations of air pressure, electricity and optics. Enthusiastic graduate students entertained kids and adults with their projects. There was also a science-inspired scavenger hunt for the fair's younger visitors as well as exhibits on aerodynamics and propulsion.

One of the more popular stations involved several graduate students making their own unique brand of ice cream which was made from liquid nitrogen and served to lines of hungry observers. It was this that drew freshman Alex Rozenshteyn back to the Fair a second time: "I wasn't going to pass up free ice cream!"

The centerpiece of the fair was the Professor Extraordinaire show, a 30-minute display of various scientific experiments performed in the Norman I. Schaffer auditorium. Last year, thanks to the growing popularity of the Physics Fair, people were turned away from the Extraordinaire show. Fair organiz-

ers were open to the possibility of such a situation reoccurring this year.

"We always choose a theme for the show, and we pick a different one each year," said Dr. N. Peter Armitage, the professor giving this year's demonstration. The theme for this year's show was "From the Nano to the Micro before your eyes." He ended his demonstration by propelling himself across the auditorium with a fire extinguisher, a finale that was greeted with applause.

Edmund Liu, a member of the Chemical Propulsion Information Analysis Center (CPIC), commented on his company's connection with the University and the primary purpose of the Fair:

"With fewer citizens in this country going into the sciences and the rocket and propulsion industry, we want to get the parents of this generation to encourage their kids to be interested in the sciences — this fair is a great way to do that."





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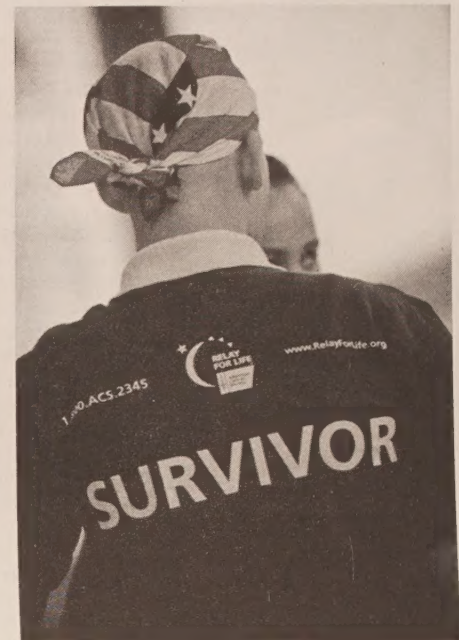
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On Friday, April 18, 2008, Relay For Life of Johns Hopkins University (awarded Outstanding Student Organization Program) made history. We held the BEST Relay For Life ever held on campus. Thank you to the more than 1000 people who came out and supported the cause. Thank you to the students of Johns Hopkins as well as the residents of the local community. It was a unique event to bring multiple Hopkins' campuses together along with the Baltimore community. To the cancer survivors and caregivers: you are an inspiration; thank you for your strength and support. It was a truly special night. We celebrated lives, remembered those we lost, and fought back again a disease that never sleeps.

We have fundraised over \$45,000, and are still going. If you would like to support us or be a part of the committee for next year, please visit <http://www.jhu.edu/Relay> (Capital R) or email us at Relay@jhu.edu



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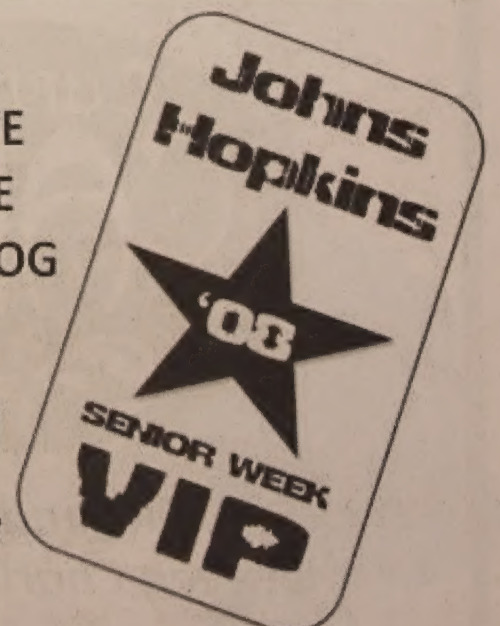
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NEWS & FEATURES

Breakdancing Club attracts local following

By JESSIE YOUNG
News-Letter Staff Writer

It's 10 p.m. and the end of breakdancing practice, but club members remain on the floor in the SDS room of the Mattin Center as breakbeats blast from the speakers. The Godzilla Containment Unit, also known as the Hopkins crew of the Breakdancing Club, lounge around with other students who show up to practice to learn new moves.

Members of Hopkins Breakdancing Club were fresh from the Break-Off competition they hosted during Spring Fair last Saturday on the Mattin Court-

yard. The club has grown to include members from local universities.

"We have people who go to different colleges who come, like people from University of Maryland College Park, Morgan State, Towson University and the Hopkins School of Medicine," club president junior David Harris said. "Most of our members started in college, and they're all growing really quickly. In a year and a half or two we're going to have a really nice squad."

The one-on-one battle attracted dancers from New York to Washington, D.C. as part of the club's efforts in developing the breakdancing scene at Hopkins, as well as Baltimore and Washington, D.C. Breakdancing Club is planning to host another competition next Spring Fair and also considering an event for Fall Festival.

"The battle experience is really fun," said Harris, who has been dancing since sophomore year of high school. "It's sometimes portrayed as a really dangerous culture, but it's actually really goofy. We compete against each other but also help each other out. It's a real teaching and learning culture."

"There's a big emphasis in breaking on hitting the beat, which sounds

really simple, but you don't choose your music in breakdancing, which is something that I think is unique as opposed to other dances," Harris said.

The jam this past weekend was the first opportunity that the two newest members of the Godzilla Containment Unit, Marasigan and freshman Alex Yeh, have had to compete.

"I got blown out of the water, taken back to school by [eventual battle winner] Rapid One," Yeh said.

"But now I think I've become more relaxed and not as nervous about competitions in general. When you get schooled by somebody that good, it just encourages you to get better."

The competition, however, is only one of the events that the club participates in. The past year, the crew has performed at shows such as Culture Show and Hopkins Got Talent, as well as a performance outside the Recreation Center during Orientation Week.

The crew also performs at showcases alongside other campus dance groups, such as Eclectics, JOSH and SLAM performances that will take place this Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

The dancers start packing up the speakers and getting ready to leave. For a second, they stop joking around and turn serious.

"A lot of people have this preconception about breaking, like how it's still in the style that it was in the mid-eighties, but now it's actually lot different," Frison said. "You still have the old style, but you also have the new style, and really, that's just all types of styles. You have abstract styles, where people do crazy contortions; you have people who specialize in flips, and acrobatic moves, and then you have fundamental kids who focus more on the foundations. It's changed so much, it's just not the same thing that it used to be."

Marasigan nods. "You just have to keep it underground."



JESSIE YOUNG/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Medical student Brandie Cross shows off her moves.

Things I've Learned, with Michael Lind

By LEAH MAINIERO
News & Features Editor

As an academic, author, children's writer and poet, Michael Lind is a foreign affairs specialist with diverse interests. His writings have influenced the world of international relations for several decades. He has also worked as a journalist or editor for publications including *Harpers Magazine*, *The New Yorker* and *The National Interest*, and is currently the Whitehead Senior Fellow at the New America Foundation.

The *News-Letter* caught up with Professor Lind, a guest professor in the political science department, before his American Grand Strategy course on Thursday to chat about his remarkable career and his most recent book of poems.

News-Letter (N-L): In the past you've written for and edited *Harpers Magazine*, *The New Yorker*, *The Washington Post* and many others. Now you're a senior fellow at the New America Foundation. What made you decide to come and teach a course at Hopkins?

Michael Lind (ML): Well my background is in foreign policy, and I've taught courses before at Harvard and Virginia Tech. When I heard that Dr. Deudney was taking a sabbatical this semester, we discussed the possibility of my teaching a course on grand strategy.

N-L: Why specifically grand strategy, as opposed to one of your other specialties?

ML: I thought the [grand strategy] would be of the most interest to both undergraduate and graduate students, and it's a good way to organize the various debates over American foreign policy that have taken place today in newspapers and journalism.

N-L: Working as a journalist for so many years must have put you in contact with all sorts of fascinating people. Who would you say had the most impact on you personally?

ML: Well in my twenties I got to know Jeanne Kirkpatrick, spent time with him. The individual with the most lasting impression on me was the late Daniel Patrick Moynihan, a former senator of New York. He was a dear friend and mentor, and he's influenced my views from matters ranging from domestic policy to foreign policy. He was one of the greatest philosopher-statesmen in American history. Not a week goes by without my thinking about what Pat Moynihan would say about a particular issue.

N-L: Who was the most interesting person you've had a chance to interview and talk to for an article?

ML: Oh, it was interesting when I was in graduate school. I had an opportunity to ask some questions of Helmut Schmidt, who was a former Chancellor of Germany, and he was giving some lectures at Yale at the time. The question was who was the most impressive statesman he'd ever dealt with in his career as statesman.

And his immediate reply was, well, does he have to be good, or can he or she be evil? His answer was, Andrey Gromyko, a former Soviet foreign minister. Schmidt

explained that that was because Gromyko was the only Russian in the leadership who did not drink. So when all the others were drunk and spilling their secrets, he was sober and listening to what they said. And as a result he was the only one of Stalin's entourage who lived to a ripe old age.

N-L: You mentioned in class one day that you had a chance to ask Henry Kissinger certain questions. How did you meet him? Did you collaborate on a project?

ML: I don't know Kissinger closely, but several times I attended an annual dinner that he gave at his apartment to discuss foreign policy for the most part, so that was an interesting annual exercise. You had a lot of bright people and it was off the record that he shared his views. This was the late 1980s the early 1990s.

N-L: What many students might not know about you is that you are the author of a children's book, *Bluebonnet Girl*. What made you move from writing for an adult academic audience to writing for children?

ML: Well it's a children's book in verse, and I've published several books in verse. My latest book in fact is called *Parallel Lives*, and it's a collection of poems. It's come out from the Etruscan Press. I did a longer verse narrative called *The Alamo*, which came out in 1997. [Verse narrative] is a genre that has been neglected by the end of the twentieth century, because most of the poetry written was fairly brief, even though narrative poetry was the major form of verse for most of history. [*Bluebonnet Girl*] is a folktale for children that I had heard earlier versions of growing up in Texas about the origin of the bluebonnet.

It's set among the American Indians. It's just a sweet little story, and I thought it would be interesting to recast it in verse, because children in particular enjoy rhyme. It's the secret of Dr. Seuss's success. Kate Kiesler was the illustrator; she's a very well-known illustrator of children's books. Most of the credit for the book's success goes to her, because in illustrated children's books, the pictures are more important than the words.

N-L: Can you tell me a little more about *Parallel Lives*?

ML: They are poems I've published over the last couple decades.

N-L: Do they have a specific theme?

ML: Oh, they're various subjects, personal, ranging from love lyrics, nature poems, poems about grief or loss or death. The initial poem in the collection was commissioned by *Parnassus* magazine, a journal of poetry, which commissioned a number writers to write poems in response to the September 11 attacks. It happened mine was the only one that was eventu-

ally published. It's my take on 9/11, very indirectly; the form is modeled on the *Epistles* of the Roman poet Horus, who would comment very obliquely over what was going on in the Roman Empire.

He was a contemporary of Julius Caesar, Augustus Caesar, Cicero and others. And so if you read between the lines, there's a lot going on in Horus — there's a lot of foreign policy, but it's kind of glimpsed through peripheral vision. That kind of peripheral,



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Michael Lind is a visiting professor of political science.

indirect approach to 9/11 appealed to me.

N-L: Wikipedia describes your work as moving "ideologically from liberal, to neoconservative, to radically centrist, and back to liberal." Would you say that is an accurate description?

ML: Well my Wikipedia entry is messed up, I need to correct that. But I view myself as a Rooseveltian liberal in the tradition of Franklin Roosevelt and the New Deal liberals. They were not all Democrats, some of them were Republicans. What you want is a strong industrial capitalist economy with generous economic security. What you want is a liberal internationalist system policed by some sort of collective security system.

That was good enough for the middle of the twentieth century. It's fallen out of favor during most of my lifetime, so I found myself a minority; either the left or the right had rejected some element of it.

But I think at the end of the day if you look around at American politics, socially something like New Deal liberalism has prevailed, domestic programs like Social Security and Medicare are popular with the American public, and they can't be destroyed as President Bush found out when he tried to partially privatize Social Security.

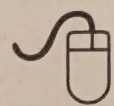
At the same time, we tried a very aggressive hegemonic foreign strategy, and now practically everyone admits that it was the wrong direction to take. So we're back to trying to collaborate with other major powers, which was the original vision of early twentieth century liberal internationalists.

So I hope that I live long enough to view the return to the place where I've been trying to stand all along.

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SECURITY ALERTS

April 25 at 9:06 p.m. — An unattended laptop was taken from M-Level in the MSE Library when its owner went to the bathroom. The investigation is ongoing.

April 27 at 12:50 p.m. — A group of males put pieces of fruit in their pockets and walked out of the Fresh Food Café.

Between April 26th at 6 p.m. and April 27 at 6 p.m. — An unattended electric blower unit was taken from a vendor's site situated on the Freshmen Quad. The investigation is continuing.

April 22 at 7:55 p.m. — Two non-affiliated juveniles were approached by six to seven juveniles on bicycles, estimated to be nine to 13 years old by the 2900 block of North Charles Street. One of the juveniles attempted to take the victim's cell phone. When the victim refused and pushed the suspect away, another suspect took the victim's walking stick and hit him in head. The victim was taken to Union Memorial Hospital by his parents where he was later treated and released. The investigation by the Baltimore Police is continuing.

April 23 at 2:05 p.m. — Two males tried to sell paintings without authorization by the Wyman Park Building. They were identified by campus officers and given trespass warnings.

April 24 between 2:40 p.m. and 2:45 p.m. — An unknown female pushed a vendor against a parked car on the corner of 33rd and North Calvert Street and took his cash after buying a hot dog from him. The suspect fled. The investigation is continuing.

April 26 at 11:26 p.m. — A female was walking alone on the 3000 block of Guilford Avenue when a male came up behind her, knocked her to the ground and attempted to take her purse. The victim held on to her purse, and the suspect fled. Nothing was taken, and there were no injuries. The investigation is continuing.

Alcohol, drug use present in substance-free dorms

Students question effectiveness of substance-free housing

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

Another student said that respect for his family's religious beliefs was the only reason he signed up for substance-free housing in the first place.

"My parents made me check that box. We [residents] are not concerned about breaking our agreement to be substance-free. When I did acid and shrooms, it was on this floor," he said.

A third student simply laughed when he was asked whether or not the dorm was really substance-free.

"Hmmm ... LSD, alcohol, Ritalin ... And that's all I've done on this floor. I've done it in my room while my roommate was sleeping. Hell, even like a couple of hours ago, when he was playing his games on the computer," he said.

He added that though he frequently uses drugs on the floor, he was unsure whether or not his floormates cared that he was breaking the rules.

"They probably have [noticed]. Most of the time, I'm too gone to really care if they notice," he said.

Another popular reason to sign up for substance-free housing is the allure of a quieter, more peaceful environment, according to several current residents.

"I signed up for it because I figured the people here wouldn't party as much, so it would be quieter," resident Connie Tan said.

Pennson Wang, also a resident, echoed this sentiment.

"I signed up for substance-free because I wasn't planning on using drugs or alcohol," she said.

"I wanted to live in an environment where the people have the same type of attitude. There's also the image, and this is a generalization, that people who drink are more rowdy and party-going."

Wang said he had not noticed substance use on the floor, but that finding out that residents use substances is surprising and upsetting

"It bothers me, I don't support it. If you're going to be substance-free, it's a signal that you won't do drugs or use alcohol. It's uncomfortable for me in general," he said.

However, although some residents are upset that people are using substances on the floor, no one has filed a complaint.

Fickau said that there has yet to be a situation reported regarding substance abuse.

As Fickau cannot chaperone these students to make sure that they stick to the contract, the Residential Advisor (RA) is expected to make sure that residents are not using illegal substances. However, this is not always the case.

"No one has ever gotten in trouble for any substance abuse," one student said. "but we've guessed that the RA has speculations."

The current RA of substance-free housing refused to be interviewed for this article.

According to Yufeng Guo, the RA usually is not in the dorm when residents are obviously using drugs. If the RA were there, however, many residents still believe that no one would expose their floor-mates' activities.

"People have noticed, just no one has said anything about it," he said.

Junior Keri Calkins lived in substance-free housing when she was a freshman. She said that drugs and alcohol were prevalent then, too, and like this year, the RA did not take disciplinary action.

"I don't ever really remember our RA mentioning that we lived in substance-free housing or discussing any rules or regulations regarding living in a substance-free dorm. When students used alcohol, drugs, or cigarettes, it seemed like our RA was never around to enforce the policies," Calkins said.

She added that she mainly signed up for substance-free housing because she thought it would decrease the likelihood that she would end up with an "out-of-control" roommate, and because she is allergic to cigarette smoke.

Fuad Muakkassa, one of Calkins' former floor-mates, said that he believed most people in his class signed up for substance-free housing for the right reasons, but that those reasons may have diminished as the year went on.

"People change as they go through their freshman year, and those who may have opted for substance-free may begin to use substances," Muakkassa wrote in an e-mail to the *News-Letter*.

One student who opted to sign up for the housing plan himself said that he was surprised when he came back to his room to find two little balls of weed on a piece of tinfoil on his dresser.

"I was like, 'What? That came out of nowhere!' I didn't know what to do, so I just chucked it," he said.

The student said that he did not feel like it was necessary to contact his RA.

Looking back, Calkins said that she did not notice the difference between substance-free housing and the other dorms until she talked to other students about their freshman year experiences.

"At the time [that I lived there], it seemed like there was really no difference between the substance-free and non-substance-free dorms with regard to students' usage or the RA's enforcement of policies," she said.

"But when I talked to other students about their housing experiences, our dorm tended to have less substance usage and be calmer on the weekends," she said.

Residential Life has already decided that they will offer substance-free housing next year to incoming freshmen, and that these students will be housed in Vincent House once again.

According to Fickau, the contract will remain the same.

Guo said that he has not really been affected by his floor-mates' decisions to use alcohol and drugs, and that he feels there is a lower level of abuse than there is in other dorms.

"[Substance-free housing] is effective to an extent, for those who choose to follow it. There's nothing stopping anybody from doing whatever they want, we're in college," he said.

Spring Fair events enliven Homewood

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

was the Reel Big Fish and Bone Thugs-n-Harmony concert, a mixture of the ska and rap genres.

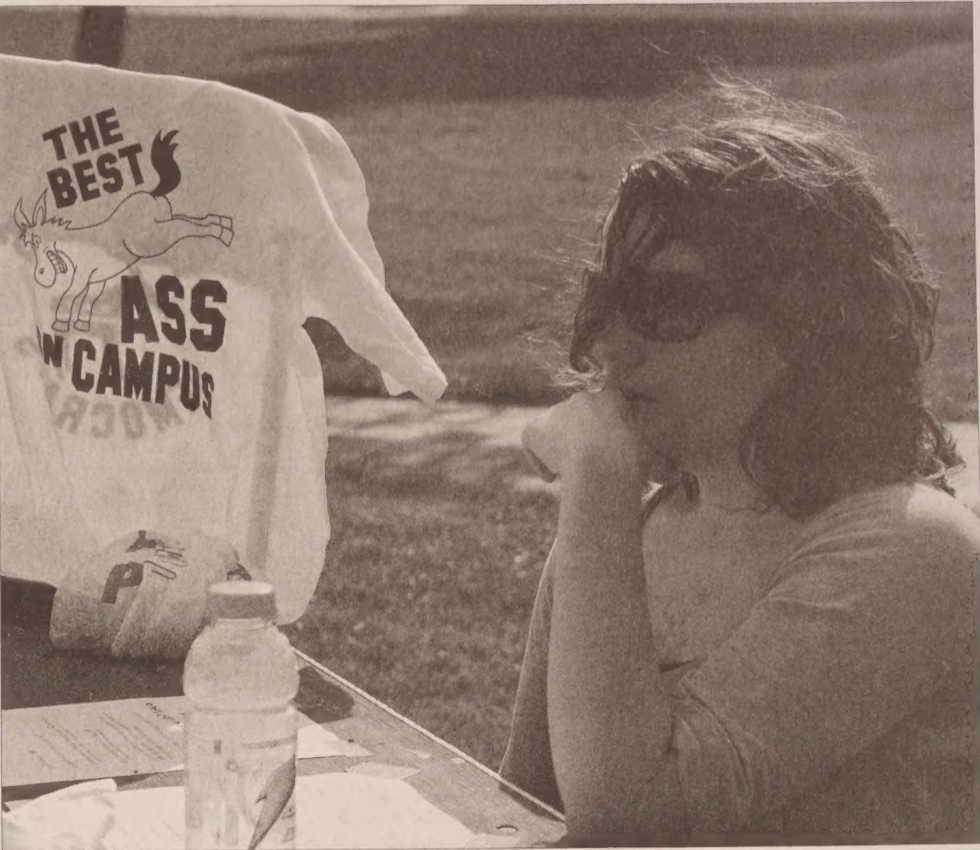
Funded by donations from Student Council, the HOP and Dean Boswell, the Spring Fair Committee sold between 1,800 and 2,000 tickets, 1,300 of which were to students.

"We've been trying to have a concert outdoors for years, and it was great to finally get that accomplished," senior Spring Fair Coordinator Steven Farber said.

Because the outdoor practice field provided more audience space than the Recreation center afforded in years past, a higher number of tickets were sold for this year's concert than any Spring Fair concert before.

There were 1,500 tickets sold for last year's concert, and it was considered a considerable turnout at the time.

This year's concert, however,



BRITNI CROCKER/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
A student mans a booth on the Freshman Quad. The weekend was filled with fair weather, an unusual occurrence for Spring Fair.

an Mary Pat Clarke said that the only complaint she heard about from local constituents was the high noise level of the Friday night concert, which she described as "loud rap music with the foul language."

Thirty different art, clothing, and jewelry vendors were also featured at Spring Fair — six more than last year.

"The food was a little overpriced, but it was a nice change from the FFC," freshman Lily Seglin said.

According to Farber, the food vendors were placed in an open U-shape around the Freshman Quad to give fair competition and equal visibility to all participants. Some of the favorites were the pit beef barbeque station, the chicken-on-a-stick lemonade and smoothie station.

Sophomore Yasin Akbari said that she believed there was not enough variety in terms of food options.

"There were a few Thai places, a few barbeque places, and a ton of lemonade stands, and although they were all delicious there wasn't a lot of range in the varieties of food offered," Akbari said.

Student groups also played a large role in the event. Numerous groups set up booths in both the Freshman Quad and the Beer Garden.

Many fraternities and sororities helped out with the plan-

ning and execution of the Fair.

In addition to organizing numerous activities for visitors and students, many of the groups raised money for their respective philanthropic organizations.

Kappa Kappa Gamma hosted activities for neighborhood children which included coloring and balloons.

Kappa Alpha Theta hosted a "Pie-a-Theta" booth, and the proceeds went to their philanthropy CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates).

Alpha Phi and Alpha Delta Phi collaborated in a 72-hour see-saw to raise money for Cardiac Care.

Phi Kappa Alpha hosted a wing-eating contest as well as a bike-a-thon fundraiser for St. Jude's Hospital, which raised \$4,000.

Sigma Phi Epsilon organized Cuts for Cancer, an event in which brothers were sponsored to shave their heads, raising \$1,300 for the Prostate Cancer Foundation.

As usual, members of Hopkins's Greek Life, student groups and other various local non-profit organizations also had a strong on-campus presence throughout this year's Spring Fair weekend.

The only explanation for such a smooth event this year is the high visibility of our officers and guards.

— STEVE OSSMUS, LIEUTENANT OF INVESTIGATIONS, CAMPUS SECURITY



ANGELI BUENO/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
A child enjoys one of the many attractions present at the Fair.

produced mixed reviews from the crowds. While some students felt as though the crowd was lackluster and boring, others were impressed by the crowd-surfing and high attendance.

Numerous other local bands, including student acts Kai Selterman, Edwin Cuervo, and Scott Wham, played throughout the weekend on Daytime Entertainment Stage on the Beach.

The Beer Garden was, as usual, one of the most frequented attractions. Security was out in high force this year, and very few cases of underage drinking and disorderly conduct were reported.

"The only explanation for such a smooth event this year is the high visibility of our officers and guards," Lieutenant Steve Ossmus said.

Ossmus said that over the past several years, the Baltimore Police Department has increased and improved its officer visibility.

"[We have new policies] such as neon yellow shirts and coats, bicycle patrols, segways and the retention of off-duty Baltimore Police to patrol areas contiguous to campus," he said.

Baltimore City Councilwoman



BRITNI CROCKER/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Bill the Magician entertains students and visitors with magic tricks at Spring Fair.

Hopkins Engaged accelerates initiatives

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

budget.

This budget will resolve the primary obstacle, as stated in the original proposal, of "obtaining proper funding to make the event a success."

While the steering committee has been meeting since spring break, no finalized plans have officially been made.

Max Dworin was recently

elected as a senator to the class of 2011 and is contributing to the efforts of the Engaged project. He believes that in order to reach the original goals of the project, the coordinators "have to move ahead quickly."

As of now the steering committee has been reaching out to groups, musicians, politicians, and other people who share the mission of Hopkins Engaged,

according to Dworin. These contributors will hopefully attract attention and additional funding to the project.

In regards to the direction of the event, Dworin was not positive that Hopkins Engaged was prepared to move ahead at full speed.

"Once we start getting some feedback we'll get some direction," Dworin said.

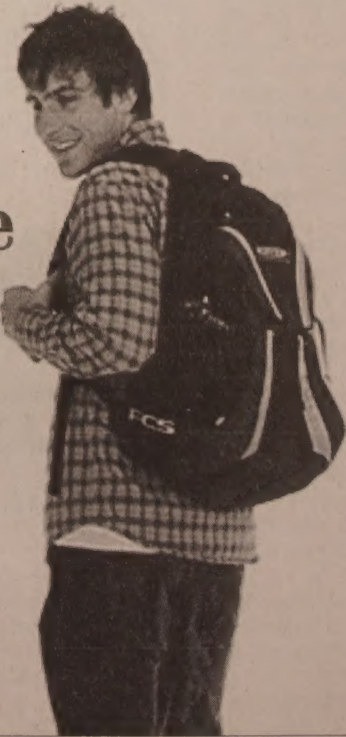
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NEWS & FEATURES

News In Brief

Univ. provost Johnson receives award

Hopkins provost and senior vice president for academic affairs Kristina Johnson will be awarded the John Fritz Medal on May 5.

The award is considered to be the highest honor in the profession of engineering.

Johnson has published more than 140 articles and is known for her innovative work with smart pixel arrays, which is applied to displays, cameras, high-resolution sensors and pattern recognition.

She has received several other awards, including the Society of Women Engineers Lifetime Achievement Award and was inducted into the Women in Technology International Hall of Fame in 2003.

Peter Pronovost recognized as most influential physician

The University's own Peter Pronovost, a professor of anesthesiology and critical care, was named one of the 100 most influential people of 2008 by *TIME Magazine*.

Pronovost has been working on efforts to improve the deliverance of medical care to patients around the world.

His research generated controversy when the government reviewed the legality of his acquisition of data from Michigan hospitals.

The government later permitted Pronovost to continue his study.

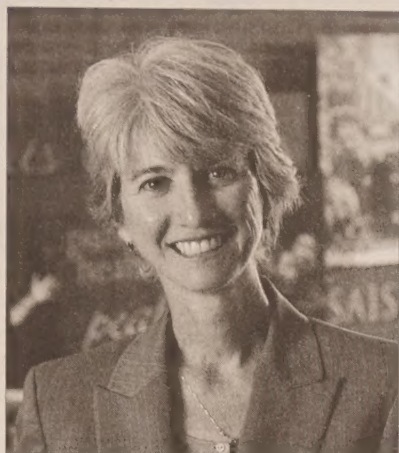


PHOTO COURTESY OF WILL KIRK
Hopkins provost Kristina Johnson will be awarded a major honor for engineering professionals

Panel questions large livestock farms

A recent project conducted by the Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health revealed that industry-like facilities housing a large concentration of livestock, such as pigs, chickens and cattle, are harmful to the environment.

The study focused on health issues raised by the large feed lots and close living quarters of the animals.

Analysis included the impact of livestock waste on water, the impact of factory farms on rural

farms and treatment of livestock.

The panel reported that the concentration of the livestock increases the likelihood of transmission of diseases from the animals to humans.

The report also found that the anti-microbials used to protect the livestock would also increase human resistance to antibiotics.

Hopkins donor to aid Baltimore development

William Carey, descendant of the successful 18th century port merchant James Carey, has decided to play a significant role in the revitalization of the economy in Baltimore.

The 77-year-old real estate financier and shareholder of W.P. Carey & Co. announced recently that he wants to help restore Baltimore to its commercial glory and leadership position that it held in 1797.

Carey has a family legacy in the city and attended Gilman School in North Baltimore.

Carey has given approximately \$65 million to several schools in Baltimore, including Hopkins, which received a \$50-million donation for creation of the Carey Business School in 2006.

— All briefs by Phyllis Zhu



COURTESY OF HTTP://WWW.DUSTYDAVIS.COM
Bloomberg researchers found free-range is a better alternative to industry farms.

Pesticides sprayed on UD campus

A harmful pesticide is being sprayed on the campus of the University of Delaware to kill unwanted weeds.

Known as known as 2,4-D, the pesticide is used to kill weeds such as dandelions and chickweed.

If inhaled, the chemical can lead to short-term effects including coughing, dizziness, nausea, loss of muscle coordination and kidney and liver damage.

Although the University has claimed to be "going green," students have witnessed the herbicides being sprayed on lawns while sitting outside eating lunch.

The University assures that 2,4-D is safe for both the environment and students and does not cause physical damage after it has dried.

The pesticide is applied in the early morning to give adequate drying time, but students and professors alike condemn this practice.

They argue that any exposure to the chemicals is unhealthy and that the University should work to become sustainable and environmentally friendly.

— Phyllis Zhu

Univ. denies cutting funding to global warming skeptic

Colorado State University issued a letter denying reports that the institution was withdrawing support from a researcher because he does not believe in global warming.

Emeritus professor and hurricane researcher William Gray said that the University's excuse

In Other College News



COURTESY OF HTTP://WWW.STATEUNIVERSITY.COM
The University of Delaware campus has been sprayed with a harmful pesticide.

for allegedly cutting his funding was flimsy.

According to a memorandum printed in several publications, Colorado State cut forecasting funding because the media continued to question Gray on his belief that global warming has not been caused by humans.

But in the letter, both Gray and the college dean said that the program maintains University support.

— Marie Cushing

Student sues Georgetown, accuses officers of racial profiling

Georgetown University has been sued by one of its graduate students.

Kambiz Fattahi has accused the school of racial profiling after he was detained by campus public safety during a 2007 graduation ceremony.

The Iranian-American said that the officers who searched his backpack told him he had made people nervous.

Before the ceremony, the University had received an anonymous threat.

An internal investigation of the event conducted by the University has cleared the officers of any wrongdoing.

— Marie Cushing

Professor from U. Florida found plagiarizing books

University of Florida English professor John Twitchell included several passages in his book that had previously been published elsewhere.

According to investigations by *The Gainesville Sun*, Twitchell's books have plagiarized from the *Harvard Business Review*, as well as the *Los Angeles Times* reporter Roy Rivenburg, among others.

Though Twitchell previously denied the charges, the month-long investigation by *The Sun* resulted in him recently issuing a formal apology.

— Marie Cushing

Court upholds denial of financial aid to student drug offenders

Students who violate drug laws will continue to remain ineligible for federal financial aid, thanks to the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals.

The ruling upheld a previous lower court decision, which was made in 2006.

— Marie Cushing

Pulling all nighters and eating mac and cheese is about to pay off.

If you're graduating from college in the next 6 months, or graduated less than 24 months ago, VW will offer you up to \$800 towards your first month's payment* and other great benefits that make getting behind the wheel of a VW a smart move. But you already knew that, Mr. College graduate. Check out vw.com for details.



Volkswagen
Credit

*Subject to credit approval. No previous delinquent credit. In a lease agreement there may be additional charges based on excessive mileage or wear and tear upon vehicle return. Periodic gas mileage estimates based on 2007 EPA estimates. Offer good through December 31, 2008, but only for the change of vehicle or first 6 months of lease. See your local VW dealer for details. © 2008 Volkswagen Group of America, Inc.

Stress-free rules for spring fashion

Finals are fast approaching, and I'm sure there's nothing you'd rather do than study. This does not mean that you are allowed to neglect your wardrobe, darling. Rather, it is an opportunity to distract others with your outstanding fashion during exams that will hopefully result in a beneficial curve. Just kidding.

Seriously, though. No more jackets, no more sweaters, no more somber colors. It is spring! And spring means wonderful pastel shirts and sundresses. If you're busy, and thinking you haven't got time to fuss over your attire, do not fret; with a few simple basics, you will be effortlessly chic and comfortable.

My fave? Brown. You wouldn't think of them as out-of-the-ordinary, but they are. And they look good with anything (but black, of course).

Hell Yes
Environmentally-Conscious Vêtements.

Incase you're not a Franco-phile, that last word there means "clothing," which ties in the global-ness of this trend. It's hip to be environmentally aware, if you haven't picked up on that already. Wearing organic cotton capris or an Earth-Day t-shirt is not only awesomely fashionable, but buying these types of clothes supports sustainable industry and shows you care about your world. Who wouldn't find that attractive?

Capri-Shorts.

A beautifully-fitting pair of Capri-shorts is a wonderful thing. If you're at all curvy (ie, most of us), don't buy them tight. If you're short, don't let them go past your knee. And no matter what, never pair them with thick wedge flip-flops. But in simple comfortable khaki, they are a pretty super summer staple. Wear them with delicate gladiator sandals and an airy A-line mini-dress or retro sneakers and layered tanks.

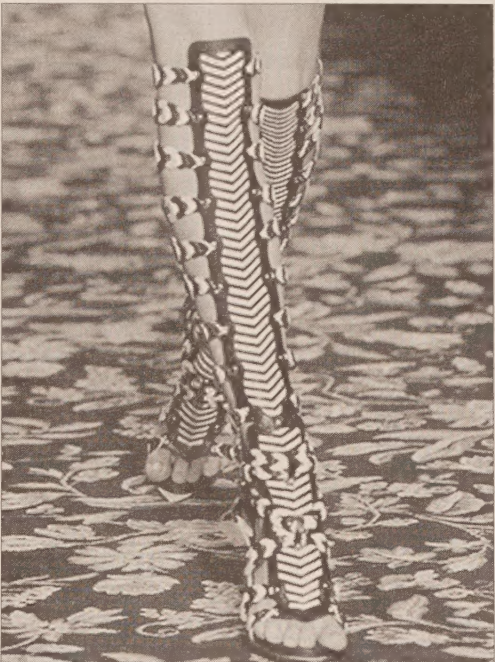
The French Riviera Shirt.
You know what I'm talking about: black and white horizontal stripes (or navy, eh). So classic and cool no matter how you wear it, really. Accessories: Large sunglasses, straw hat, iced tea, possibly a gondola...

Funky Rain Boots.
When it rains, it pours. And the pathways become rivers. And the lawns flood. And the best thing to do about that is to wear your rainboots, girl! Traditional Wellies in red or green are fresh-

ly classic, but the new cool polka-dot or anime-cartoon boots are neat as well. Also, tuck in your jeans! That's the point! You want to stay warm and dry from your toes to your knees and that's not going to happen if your pant hems are dragging in the mud.

The Exotic Farmer's Market Bag.
These harken back to the days of buying fresh oranges at a bustling stand in Guatemala on cool summer mornings; outings we can all relate to. Well, even if you're one of the few who don't do this often, a bag with printed lemons or coconuts or a tote that looks like it was sewn from foreign burlap sacks goes well with any summer outfit. It sends the message that you are carefree, well-traveled, and support local produce farmers.

The Safari Shirt.
Khaki or light blue, this light button-down transports you in-



COURTESY OF STYLE.COM
Don't be intimidated by this season's fierce gladiator sandal.

No Way

Pink and Red:
These colors go splendidly on a Valentine's Day card, but not so much on you. I know some of you are pouting your overly-glossed lips and thinking "Wait, what? I thought they were like shades of each other or something." Nope. But don't worry, shades of other colors do go together. Greens? Great. Blues? Brilliant. Yellows? Eh, maybe. Which brings us to our next point:

The Velour Track Suit.
A possibility, if you split it up and don't wear both halves together. Skip the Tiffany charm bracelet and fake tan, too. Save the full-body-encapsulation of fuzzy yellowness or bright pink for Halloween. When you're home. Alone. And no one has to see you. Head-to-toe kelly green? St. Patrick's Day only.

The Diaper Short.
You know these; they're cut loose and then tie or gather at the bottom at the top of the thigh, like a puffy diaper. The tied bottoms, I must say, takes care of the butt-fat hanging-out that so often happens with short-shorts, but creates a different problem. Diaper shorts look cute-ish from the front, but have you seen your derrière from the back? Ooh, ouch. This figures into the bigger message of Know What You Look Like From Behind.

Generic-ness.
We're all guilty of it. Yeah, it's Monday, and yeah, you're tired, and yeah, go ahead and throw on your t-shirt, jeans and flip-flops. But at least make it a cool t-shirt, preferably one that prominently displays a wholesome saying (eg. Make Cupcakes, Not War) or has a sweet rock band design, and flip-flops in an unusual color.

Exercise provides opportunities for experimentation

What does it mean to you to be fit? By definition fitness means to be suited for, to be capable of completing a task. You can be fit to pass your chemistry final or fit to run a marathon. Although, these two examples are on different ends of the spectrum they both require you to put in the necessary work to complete the task and leave you with a sense of achievement.

When it comes to exercise it's the same thing — you put in hard work, and even though it was tough, you're glad you did it when it's over. The physical benefits of exercise are obvious: greater strength, more muscle tone, reduction of body fat levels, weight management, but often times our society puts too much emphasis on the vanity results of exercise.

In terms of health, fitness means to achieve optimal health not just physically, but also mentally and emotionally. I often tell my clients that it's important to not only set goals for yourself regarding the way you look in the mirror, but also set goals that allow you to achieve something physically you thought you could never do like run a 10K road race. Losing ten unwanted pounds can give you a sense of achievement, but completing a race can do that and more.

Too often I hear, "I could never do that." My first response is, "have you ever tried?" How can you achieve physical fitness and meet those goals if you're not emotionally and mentally fit? Fit-

ness is a package deal. You have to believe that you can.

The great thing about exercise is that each workout presents you with a challenge and opportunity to gain confidence. It may be a challenge to get out your front door or the final minutes may be difficult, but once completed you've succeeded and met your goal. Then you build on that. Next time you go a little bit longer or a bit harder, not only is body adapting and changing due to stimulus, but your mindset is changing as well.

My philosophy is not to workout, but to train. If you change your focus from trying to achieve a certain weight or physical appearance to accomplishing a goal like making a team or completing a race you can reap many benefits, and an improved physical appearance is just icing on the cake.

Summer is right around the corner, and with more free time it's the perfect time to train for something and turn that "I can't" into "I will." There are many athletic events like triathlons, running races, bike races, open water swims, and other hobbies to try.

A benefit of training for something is that it gives you motivation to exercise and prepare. You have a set date on your calendar that you need to be ready by. Who

wants to go out and compete and do poorly? I know I don't. Therefore, you're more likely to stick to a program whether you're swimming your laps three times a week or logging miles. You are able to measure your performance in time, distance, or how you felt rather than a number on the scale.

There are many training groups available in most areas for almost any activity. It can be an excellent way to meet new people and build relationships. Check online for weekly running groups or find sport specific training centers. If you recruit a friend or family member to train with you it can be a bonding experience. Sign yourself and your Dad up for a summer 5k. To make it interesting make a bet on who will win. You may get some money out of the deal.

Training for an athletic competition can also be the trick to making daily exercise a lifelong habit. Preparing to do well in an athletic event isn't something that you can do overnight if you're truly challenging yourself. Therefore, you have to put in a good amount of time into your workouts each week. Your body gets used to this, and even after the event is over you will be more likely to keep training to do



Kelly Gonzalez
Busy Bodies

Burke's: your next stop for steaks

"Are you hungry?"
"Yeah, starving. Where do you want to eat?"

My friend and I were walking down Light Street near the Inner Harbor area last Tuesday, looking around for somewhere to grab dinner, somewhere that would hopefully send us away with full stomachs and decently full wallets.

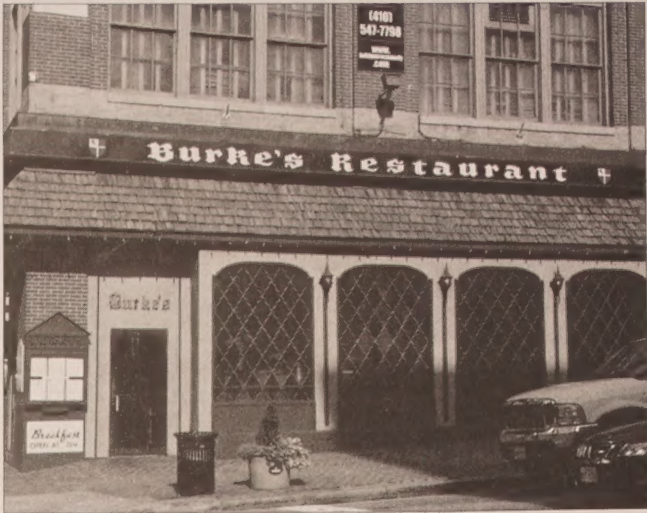
Suddenly, a building across the street jumped out at the two of us. In contrast to the modern glass walls of the surrounding architecture, Burke's Café and Comedy Factory is designed to look like it was transplanted from a fiefdom in medieval Germany into the bustle of downtown Baltimore.

"How about there?" I asked, already preparing to loosen my belt a few notches.

"Sure, let's check out the menu first."

We approached the old building. The menu posted outside the doors quickly convinced us to go inside, since the prices were reasonable and the fare looked intriguing. Burke's is a seafood and steak house — entire pages of the menu are devoted to their oyster selection and plate-sized steaks.

The restaurant is definitely for those in search of some good comfort food (including traditional German food). For appetizers and sides, the menu boasts potato pancakes, onion rings, fried zucchini, bread, yams and



COURTESY OF BURKESCAFE.COM
Burke's Restaurant and Comedy Factory on Light Street offers up German cuisine.

cabbage. For entrees, customers get their pick of a variety of sandwiches, burgers, fish, steaks and soups. The dessert menu was fairly traditional: cheesecake, chocolate cake and ice cream are listed, along with a few other classics. Judging by the décor and the dessert menu alike, Burke's is a big fan of the "if it ain't broken, don't fix it" policy.

To start, my friend and I ordered the fried zucchini, which came out quickly, and was consumed nearly as fast. The batter on the zucchini was made with oregano and other herbs, which made it smell and taste sensational.

For an entrée, I ordered the veggie burger with grilled yams (I'm a vegetarian). My friend ordered the sour steak with cabbage salad and potato pancakes. When our food came out, there was a slight mishap — my veggie burger tasted a little too beefy to be trusted. In fact, that's because it was beef. This mistake was corrected, and I soon had a significantly less beefy burger, a bit of a disappointment in an

otherwise lovely dinner. The yams literally melted, the potato pancakes were crisp — a far cry from Hopkins cafeteria food. For all of this, (after two entrees, drinks and an appetizer) the total came out to less than \$30 for both of us.

In addition, the inside of the restaurant stood up to the unique outside appearance.

There were large stained glass windows, high vaulted ceilings, heavy wooden furnishings and antique decorations that created a charming old-world tavern atmosphere.

Burke's is also a comedy club — "Baltimore's oldest and favorite comedy club" that is — and regularly features stand up comics Thursdays through Sundays. The upcoming comic is Nikki Payne, who will be performing Thursday, May 1st to Saturday, May 3. Nikki Payne is a Canadian comedian and actress who was a contender in The Last Comic Standing. Paul Mercurio will be performing from May 8 to May 10, and Tony Woods will perform May 15 to May 17.

Amy Marco
Guest Column

What women really want: the Alpha male

There is a lot of advice out there about what guys should do or say when trying to attract a girl.

Compliment her — but not too much, or you'll seem desperate. Call after three days, or four — or don't play those games at all.

Be cocky and tell jokes — or do everything to avoid looking like a clown.

It's far too much for anyone to remember in any practical application.

What's more, it's generally useless advice. At worst, it's counter-productive.

Fortunately, we don't have to give up. As in any other conun-

drum, science is the answer to all our problems.

To get their genes passed on, girls have two goals, ingrained in their psyches by evolution.

First, they want a guy who will produce pretty, healthy babies. Second, they seek a man who will make sure that their babies survive the trials of the wild to pass on those genes again.

In contrast, men only want the pretty, healthy babies; they will then be responsible themselves for fighting off the saber-toothed tigers.

What men truly cannot understand is this attraction to power, even though they hear about it all the time. The powerful man, the leader of others, has throughout the eons had his children survive while others' didn't.

The trick is to translate this hard-wire attraction into everyday action.

Instead of having a thousand little rules, all you have to remember is that in every situation you want to be the Alpha male.

For example, let's say you're out with a group of friends. Some drunken jack-ass starts getting belligerent, and you think it might come to blows.

In general, violence is not attractive to girls. So if you lose your temper and hit the guy first, you lose major points.

If, however, you step between your best friend and the guy who has already started swinging and place a quick jab in his jaw, you are as cool as Ryan from *The OC*.

Where's the difference? When you swing first, you are putting yourself and your friends in unnecessary danger, lowering your value to the social circle.

When you end a fight that's already inevitable, you have protected your friends — thus making yourself immeasurably more attractive.

If you get into the right mindset, the Alpha attitude can be applied to anything. And it is not just a list of things to remember

— you have to believe it yourself.

Girls are extremely intuitive, so you can't just fake it. You have to believe you're a leader, a protector, someone who can defend in times of need — the go-to guy.

There is a subtler other side that comes with this attitude: not caring about girls. Yes, it is completely counter-intuitive. But a real leader

knows that he will eventually find a suitable mate. If any particular girl rejects him, he gets over it. He knows another one will come his way.

That is not to say that he is mean to girls, he is not the "jerk," not insulting. He's nice and courteous, but he is so self-actualized that what anyone else says to him, male or female, doesn't affect him at all that much.

If, say, someone were to say to you that the events of Sept. 11 were orchestrated by the U.S. government, a gut reaction might be to call him absurd, attack his ideas, his reasoning, perhaps eventually question his upbringing or insult his mother.

All of this is perfectly understandable, but a person who has real control will just dismiss it. He will say, "Oh? Is that right?" and change the topic of conversation. The lesser person simply does not matter to him.

Once the Alpha male gets the girl, the job isn't done. To keep her interested, he has to keep up the Alpha mind-set, or she'll move on.

And, yes, friends, this applies to the bedroom as well.

Girls who are attracted to the dominant types — that is to say, just about all of them — like to feel some of that dominance from her man in that most carnal of times.

Don't overdo it, though — the definition of dominant is different for every girl.

Some girls just want to be shown, maybe told, what to do. Some girls will crave a full-out backhand to the jaw.

It is essential to your relationships and your criminal record that you not confuse the two.

Girls who are
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THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

PUBLISHED SINCE 1896 BY THE STUDENTS OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

EDITORIAL

Enforce substance-free rules

The University is obligated to ensure that a diversity of lifestyles can be accommodated on this campus. Unfortunately, the article in this week's *News-Letter* on the prevalence of illicit substances in the freshman substance-free dorm reveals gaps in this mission. It is important that students who opt to live in a substance-free environment are guaranteed this option. Just as the University takes into consideration the particular practices of religions, the decision to live in a substance-free environment should be treated the same, whether the respective student's reason is religious or not.

The recent report of substance use in the substance-free dorm confirms the lack of appropriate safeguards and enforcement measures. The first obstacle to a truly substance-free dorm can be corrected preemptively by correcting the potential disconnect between students and their parents. Parents are the ones who end up paying for housing and thus have the right choose the type of housing that they prefer for their children. However, just because parents have this right does not mean they will make the right decision.

Consequently, the application should require more than just a check for those who want to live in substance-free housing. These students should be required to answer a written questionnaire that asks students why they want to live in this dorm. The Reslife office will then reserve the right to judge which students are the best fit for a substance-free environment.

A student written-response will allow Reslife to determine if a student truly desires to live in this dorm and is not being coerced by his or her parents. These recommendations are by no means foolproof in identifying students who truly want to live in substance-free housing but at least provide some form of checks and balances in the application process.

But some students who request to live in a substance-free housing will change their minds once they arrive. These students have the same options as all other students: File a request to relocate dorms. Reslife should remind students who wish to no longer reside in substance-free that no assumptions about their behavior will be made. And conversely, students who do not live in substance-free housing should be able to request it mid-year. This option must be constructive, not punitive.

However, those who break the substance-free contract and fail to make an effort to relocate must be held accountable. Students who fail to abide by the contract, particularly repeat offenders, should be removed from University housing. This is not a draconian measure. The substance-free housing contract is like any other contract, and those who commit to it must be expected to honor its conditions. This is the only way to guarantee a truly substance-free environment. The University has the responsibility to provide a welcoming and comfortable setting for a wide variety of lifestyles, including the sober one.

Making Engaged a reality

The Hopkins Engaged initiative, conceived entirely by students, is an important project for encouraging politicians, local community leaders and students at Hopkins and in the Baltimore area into active dialogue about the pressing issues facing our country today. When governing institutions are unresponsive to the grievances of young people, youths seem to react in one of two ways: They stop voting or start doing something. The best way to combat civic apathy towards politics, particularly among youth, is to engage people rather than remain passive in the face of this situation.

Political engagement can only come about through the revitalization of politics through campaigns promoting activism, education and political involvement on campus and in the local community. It is not enough to poster a few walls or to hand out flyers promoting political participation. Students need to engage in a dialogue. Communication is key to giving a voice to youth and breaking the disconnect between politicians and their

constituencies.

The initiative has been well received by the administration, and Dean Paula Burger has expressed tremendous enthusiasm for implementing the proposal and making the event a reality for fall 2008, on the eve of the national presidential election. However, student organizers still have not finalized a budget, which is the primary necessity for making the proposal a reality. If organizers want to hold an event and attract high-profile political figures and an appreciable number of attendees, they must be more proactive during the coming months.

We understand that organizing such a large-scale event is a difficult, complex undertaking. There is still some time, however, to get this ambitious program off the ground. Organizers must improve communication with the administration and work with Dean Burger to take their ideas to the next level. Only then can their vision for active political engagement among people in and around the Hopkins community be realized.

Our knowledge of the world

Johns Hopkins, as the first modern research university, was envisioned as a distinctly secular institution. Rather than a divinity school, we would have labs. That is why it is surprising to learn that many students at this university believe in creationism. This is particularly surprising considering the University's reputation as a bastion of the hard sciences.

Consequently, the University is put in a position where they must negotiate their commitment to science with upholding students' rights to hold and express their own faiths beyond the classroom. The University is obligated to be uncompromising in its scientific pursuits, but it must also provide space for students to express their own beliefs.

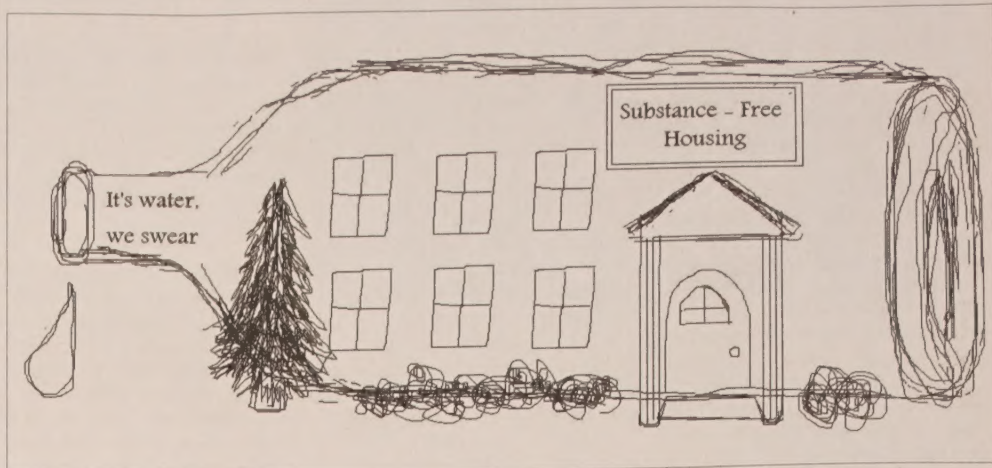
Dean Falk is right to insist that students at Hopkins uphold the principles upon which the University was founded, those of the scientific method in the classroom.

The study of science is a constant discovery. Professors make no claims of having a holistic understanding of the universe. They do try, however, to convey

the best information available at hand. The evidence suggests that creationism in terms of a theory to explain phenomena in biology is not workable in the scientific method of reasoning, which is why efforts to test the theory scientifically have not been attempted. Conversely, the theory of evolution has been subjugated to the scientific method and is constantly under scrutiny and debate.

Nonetheless, the scientific approach to understanding life does not always provide insight into our existence. As several professors point out, religious faith often provides a framework for understanding the reasons why phenomena characterized by science occur. Thus, the University must allow students to cultivate their religious beliefs even if they conflict with what is presented in the classroom. At the same time, by studying at this university, we have agreed to abide by certain academic conventions. This ethos of mutual respect between professors and students is what all of us at Hopkins should strive towards.

Natachi Chukumerije



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Vision Xchange article ignores perspective

I would like to call attention to the article that was written about last week's Vision Xchange charity event entitled "Charity event goes smoothly despite controversial speaker." The article was strongly one-sided and did not explain the reasoning behind the opposition to the event, or why administrators chose to withdraw their participation from the event.

Poorly researched and imbalanced, the article included an overwhelming number of quotes from Vision Xchange which marginalized the opinions of the faculty and students who took issue with the event. Further, the reporter's misquote of Ariana Tart-Zelvin, in which she stated that Weir has an "anti-Israel" point of view as opposed to

an "anti-Semitic" point of view, only exacerbated the situation, in that it erroneously explained the point of opposition. Alison Weir's right to speak on campus is undisputed.

Rather, it was her presence, representing an organization that is undeniably politically charged, at an event that was both advertised and reported to be humanitarian and specifically apolitical that was of issue. As the chairs of the event emphasized, it is crucial that students educate themselves about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Yet this education must entail a thorough presentation and understanding of both sides.

—Ilana Ellenberg

Spring Fair's conflict with Passover

As an alumnus and an observant Jew, I am very disturbed by the passive attitude of Ms. Rachel Heimann, acting director of Hopkins Hillel, regarding Spring Fair's conflict with Passover:

"Over the course of four years, at least one if not two Spring Fairs will take place over Passover," Heimann said. Ms. Heimann, in my four years at Hopkins, Spring Fair didn't conflict with Passover ONCE!! Look it up. In fact, I've never heard about it happening until very recently. It doesn't need to be accepted and, quite frankly, it shouldn't be.

Now you say it happens about every other year? I'll repeat it again, during my four years as an undergraduate, The Jewish Community worked with the University, and it worked out so that Spring Fair did not conflict with Passover once. You owe it to the students whom you service to see to it that it does not happen again.

—Efrem Epstein

LETTERS POLICY

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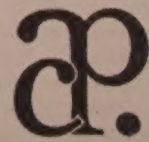
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StuCo should shift to greater advocacy

By ZACHARY MOOR

I have been a part of the Student Council for four years and write this as a final effort to advance a body I respect so much. My four years have convinced me that the Council is composed of some of the most ambitious, dynamic and compassionate individuals at Hopkins. I have also come to believe that the Council must change. Here I will list the current dilemmas and advance a course of action.

The issues the Student Council faces are both internal and external. The first is an emphasis on the administrative. Committees like COLA and Authorization get bogged down in paperwork and endless interviews. While leadership appointments and student group approval are important tasks, they do not advance student interests. They are the acts of a bureaucrat, not of an advocate. The new constitution will hopefully spread the workload a bit, though the same redundant tasks remain.

There is a lack of cooperation from the administration. This stems not from disrespect but from a conflict of interests. The deans at Hopkins are caring individuals, but they are also employees of Hopkins. Often the larger interests of the University conflict with those of its students. This leads to students being closed out of critical decisions regarding health care, tuition and the presidential search committee of late. Without being included in such decisions, the Council remains hamstrung.

As a result of this imposed ignorance, the Council appears reactionary and inept. Such a perception is common among students and while undeserved, it is understandable. Students then check out, leaving the Council impotent. Without the political capital an engaged student body provides, the Council can never have legitimacy.

In an effort to stem this, Hopkins has made a commendable effort to incorporate the students into the decision-making process through liaisons. This has backfired. Student Council has become so entrenched in the lower echelon of this mechanism that it deludes itself into a false sense of inclusion.

The most fundamental problem plaguing the Council is intrinsic. For too long the body has drifted towards programming rather than advocacy. It cannot be this way. The Council must become the voice of the students, not their social coordinator.

To remedy this situation, technical, institutional and social changes must be realized. From a technical point the administrative work must be minimized or outsourced. The creation of satellite groups to perform these functions is an option as is devolving these responsibilities to other student groups.

Further, all programming must be stopped. Council should always be on the side of fun, but its purpose is larger. Finally, elections should not be done based on class or committee. Officers should not be preoccupied with serving these narrow interests. Instead they must seek out the larger issues.

On an institutional level there must also be change. The Council must become fiscally independent. There is no way to negotiate when in a position of dependency. Such a bold move would force the Council to economize their resources and to assess their priorities. More broadly, the Council must secure political autonomy. It must move from the system of a paternalistic oversight to a more egalitarian one.

From a social place the Council must reach out to students. The way to do this is to re-calibrate the way the agenda is set. Instead of having officers work as political entrepreneurs, students must decide the issues. The job of an officer is to solicit the opinions of the students on the salient issues of the day. By salient issues I mean security, healthcare, housing and dining, tuition, travel abroad and internship credits.

There are promising signs that change is coming. Over the course of the year the Council and the executive board in particular have become increasingly vocal about the need to secure more cooperation from the administration. This is part of a broader feeling that the function of the body needs to shift from programming to advocacy.

It remains to be seen if this positive spirit will be translated into action. If the past is any indication, the Council will disappoint. Yet this change depends on intelligent and courageous students, and Hopkins certainly has no shortage of those.

Zachary Moor is a senior political science major from Natick, Mass.

OPINIONS

Hidden Sudan investments

By AARON MARTEL

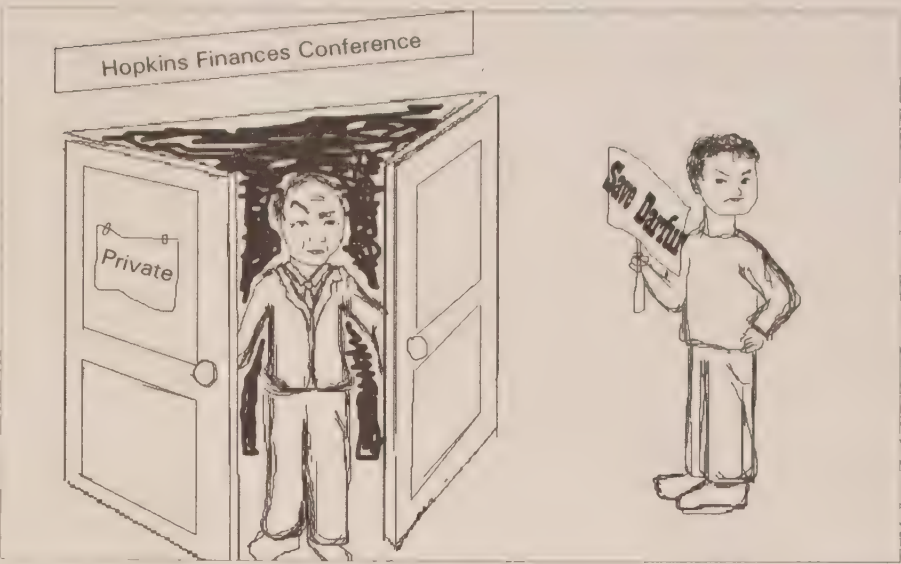
Hopkins is virtually alone among prestigious American universities: Out of the “top 15,” only Hopkins and CalTech lack a public policy on Darfur. Over 1,000 students have petitioned Hopkins to divest from companies funding the violence in Darfur. Students, alumni, faculty and groups have endorsed “targeted divestment,” calling for a portfolio review, corporate engagement and divestment as a last resort.

In a recent interview, President Brody reiterated the administration’s case against Sudan divestment: “You can’t divest if you don’t own anything.” Yet the status of Hopkins’s Sudan holdings remains uncertain; last year, chief investment officer Kathryn Crecelius ruled out a review of managed funds. If Hopkins has no problematic holdings, then there are few barriers to a targeted restriction of future investment.

JHU STAND’s model does not target Coca-Cola or Pepsi, as Dr. Brody implied. The Sudan Divestment Task Force and Calvert maintain rankings of the “worst offending” candidates for divestment. As of April 2008, the list includes PetroChina, Petronas, ONGC, Sinopec, Lundin Petroleum, Aref Investment Group, Petrofac, Dietswell Engineering and KSTB. Consumer goods, agriculture, medicine and education are explicitly excluded. The social cost of Coca-Cola divestment would outweigh any political benefits, as Coke employs Sudanese civilians and provide goods to consumers.

Brody also asked, “Should we invest in companies in Russia or China because they don’t promote democracy?” This analogy is problematic; systematic ethnic cleansing and non-democratic gov-

Aaron Martel is a senior public health major and is the coordinator of the JHU Sudan Divestment Task Force (STAND).



ANN FABER/GRAPHICS EDITOR

ernance cannot be compared in terms of urgency, controversy or human suffering. Foreign direct investment (FDI) in China has lifted hundreds of millions of people out of poverty. In Sudan, FDI is siphoned to military expenditures, contributing little to civilian employment, infrastructure or health. In this way, Sudan is a rare example of effective targeted sanctions.

Arguments against Sudan divestment echo objections to the ultimately successful South Africa and tobacco divestment campaigns. In the 1980s, the administration and Board of Trustees grappled with the decision to divest from South Africa. Executives argued that Hopkins was not structured to conduct social action or rally a political consensus. Student anti-Apartheid activists advocated “blanket” divestment; there were concerns that such a policy could harm blacks economically. Decision-makers also argued that stock ownership gave the University leverage to influence corporate conduct. Hopkins thus initially engaged companies on the Sullivan Principles, a set of requirements for the equal treatment of

black employees. This establishes a clear precedent for engagement of companies operating in Sudan.

The Public Interest Investment Advisory Committee (PIIAC) played a major role in the decision to divest, advising the Board of Trustees on the conduct of companies operating in South Africa. PIIAC, a group of six students, five faculty members, and two administrators, was formed in 1972 to advise trustees on socially responsible investment. Hopkins’s divestment resolution acknowledged that investment is a tacit social position; stock ownership in a company is a kind of implied consent of business practices. By the mid ’80s, many firms had already left South Africa for economic and political reasons. Hopkins thus selectively divested from companies that would not phase out operations in South Africa.

Until 1991, tobacco stocks comprised 1.5 percent of Hopkins’s investment portfolio. In 1990, PIIAC advised the Board of Trustees to divest tobacco holdings, arguing that divestment would “give new meaning” to Hopkins’s mission to improve human health. The Board

and that Hopkins would be perceived as dictating social policy. The Committee thus recommended that divestment be “carried out quietly,” with no press release or disclosure of company names. Similarly, today’s administration may be concerned that divestment from Chinese oil firms may threaten the Hopkins/PRC partnership in Nanjing. It is also possible that Hopkins has “silently” divested from Sudan, consistent with the Board’s policy on tobacco.

The genocide in Darfur is uniquely urgent, uniquely tied to foreign investment and uniquely susceptible to sanctions and international scrutiny. For these reasons, the Investment Office should substantiate claims of no Sudan holdings. The Board of Trustees should publicly restrict investments in complicit firms until humanitarian criteria are met. The administration should institutionalize genocide studies through an endowed lecture series or fund for undergraduate humanitarian projects. President Brody is positioned to galvanize these actions prior to his departure in December.

Obama’s next challenge: winning superdelegates

By DYLAN DIGGS

I am enjoying the current presidential nomination race between Sens. Barack Obama (D-Ill.) and Hillary Clinton (D-N.Y.). As a Republican I found the GOP race going to Super Tuesday exciting and a bit more substantive, but this contest between Clinton and Obama is epic. Forty-six states and territories have voted, with seven more coming up and the Democrats are still unsure about whom to nominate to run against McCain.

Pundits, prognosticators and Obama supporters claim that Obama actually has the nomination locked up. After all, he probably will end up with the most delegates, while also being slightly ahead in the popular vote. However, Obama’s no sure bet, and people are quickly discovering it.

Clinton, meanwhile, is proving to be the woman who just won’t die. The senator has extended this race at a time when most candidates would have dropped out. Obama’s lead in delegates now appears to simply be the result of two surges of momentum at a time that he was an unscrutinized fresh face. The first came in Iowa and the second after Super Tuesday. Such positive but superficial surges cut into the legitimacy of Obama actually having the unconditional support of the Democratic Party.

Though Obama is the most likely candidate to get the nomination, Clinton’s stock is rising. She needs to make this point clear to the party’s superdelegates, party leaders and activists who will end up tipping the delegate balance to either candidate in the convention.

Obama’s supporters have argued that the superdelegates are inconsequential. Obama’s lead in pledged delegates will be the determining factor and these superdelegates will vote for whoever wins the most elected delegates after all the elections are held. This makes some sense, considering that many superdelegates are elected officials and must be cautious in overturning the popular will.

There are a few problems with such a calculation. The most consequential is that Clinton has been winning significantly in big Democratic states.

The only people elected officials must answer to is their constituents, not national audiences. Considering that Clinton has won Massachusetts, Ohio, California, Pennsylvania and New York, under the logic of Obama supporters, these officials must vote for the candidate their constituents voted for. Already that has not occurred. Superdelegates are voting for whom they feel is the best candidate. Govs. Deval Patrick (Mass.) and Bill Richardson (N.M.) are both supporting Obama, despite their

states voting for Clinton. Meanwhile, Govs. Martin O’Malley and Tom Vilsack (Iowa) are balking their state’s votes for Obama and stand with Clinton.

Clinton has won the states that matter the most to the Democrats. The number of superdelegates a state has can show to some level a mix of the Democratic support in that state and its weight in the Electoral College come November. The biggest “blue” state, not including Illinois, that Obama has won is Maryland, with 27 superdelegates. His top three states add up to 81 superdelegates, while Clinton’s add up to 142.

Moreover, Democrats are beginning to worry about Obama’s electability. He’s a great candidate when unchallenged and speaking from a teleprompter, but take him out of a messianic venue and he doesn’t do so hot. Republicans are already hurting House Democrats running for office by connecting them to Obama, such as the ones in North Carolina and Mississippi. That used to be Clinton up there being bashed by the GOP.

These are Obama’s first real electoral challenges. The main reason why he won his current Senate seat is because his Democratic and Republican challengers dropped out due to corruption and sex scandals. Now that he’s in a real race, the man can’t finish his opponent off. That should give Democrats some pause when considering who would be

best to go up against a formidable McCain in the general election.

I’m not sweating too much about whichever candidate comes out of this nomination duel, I don’t like McCain, but he’ll probably do well against either. He can get the independents from Clinton and the Reagan Democrats from an Obama who seems more elitist and liberal every day.

What I am worried about is the future of this country. Though I like Obama’s public persona, I believe he would have been a great candidate after another four years or, better yet, a great majority leader of the Senate.

Despite what his supporters say, experience does matter. Obama will be the least experienced president in this country’s history. That would be relatively OK, if his campaign was not so superficial and vacuous, relying on “hope” and “change” buzz words. American politicians have become celebrities. That is true for all three candidates, but more so for Obama. For that reason, I reluctantly take joy when Clinton wins each contest, because it might further prevent Obama’s Oprah-inspired, amateur-celebrity candidacy from rising to the Oval Office.

Dylan Diggs is a senior political science major from Mount Airy, Md.

Protest the issues, not the Olympics

By RAVI GUPTA

The Olympic Games belong to the athletes and not to the politicians,” President of the American Olympic Committee Avery Brundage said in 1936. He was speaking in response to proposals to boycott the Summer Olympics that year in Berlin, where German Jews were excluded. But while most of us would certainly like to agree with Brundage, protests and boycotts have almost become another category of Olympic sport. And a protracted series of “knock the torch” disrupting the pre-Olympic festivities has revealed that the Olympics actually encompass a body of politics in and of itself. In fact, history shows that the Olympics have rarely passed off without controversy. But history also reveals that boycotts have done little if anything to effect a political change in the host country.

The Berlin games in 1936 were perhaps the most controversial in history. The Na-

zis inundated the games in propaganda. When there were protests, Brundage opposed all calls for a boycott of the Games and the United States still participated. Interestingly, the idea for a torch relay came from Nazi organizers in the 1936 Games.

Whether or not the relay will survive remains to be seen. When Barcelona hosted the Games in 1992, for the first time in 30 years there were no boycotts. But the Cold War was over and the other source of protest, the apartheid, had also ended. 1980 saw the largest boycott in history when 62 countries led by the United States didn’t arrive in Moscow after the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan the previous year. This year, the specter of protest has risen once again, this time under the reason of China’s human rights abuses and its treatment of Tibetans.

While I agree with the cause for which these people are fighting, I have trouble with the recent protests and do not support them as they relate to the Games themselves. People should not be protesting the Olympic Games but

rather the political issues, like China’s involvement in Darfur.

People shouldn’t boycott participation in an event whose purpose is to bring about peaceful, international cooperation. But many American politicians, including presidential hopefuls Senators Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton, are pressuring President George W. Bush to boycott the opening ceremonies of the Olympics. Although this might make a significant public statement to the global community, it seems unlikely that such an act would be effective in altering the injustices in China.

Current rules prohibit athletes participating in the Olympics from taking part in any political, religious or racial demonstrations before or after the competition. The stipulation was instigated to prevent the integrity of the Games from being influenced by external political agendas.

Some have suggested that a boycott of the Games entirely would send a powerful message saying that human rights

violations will not be tolerated by the international community. But such an approach to injustice does not attack the issue at its roots. As Olympics Minister Tessa Jowell said in February this year, “I certainly think it’s reasonable to use this window to encourage China to act as a responsible global citizen. [But] I think the boundary between government and sport is one that politicians should cross very carefully.”

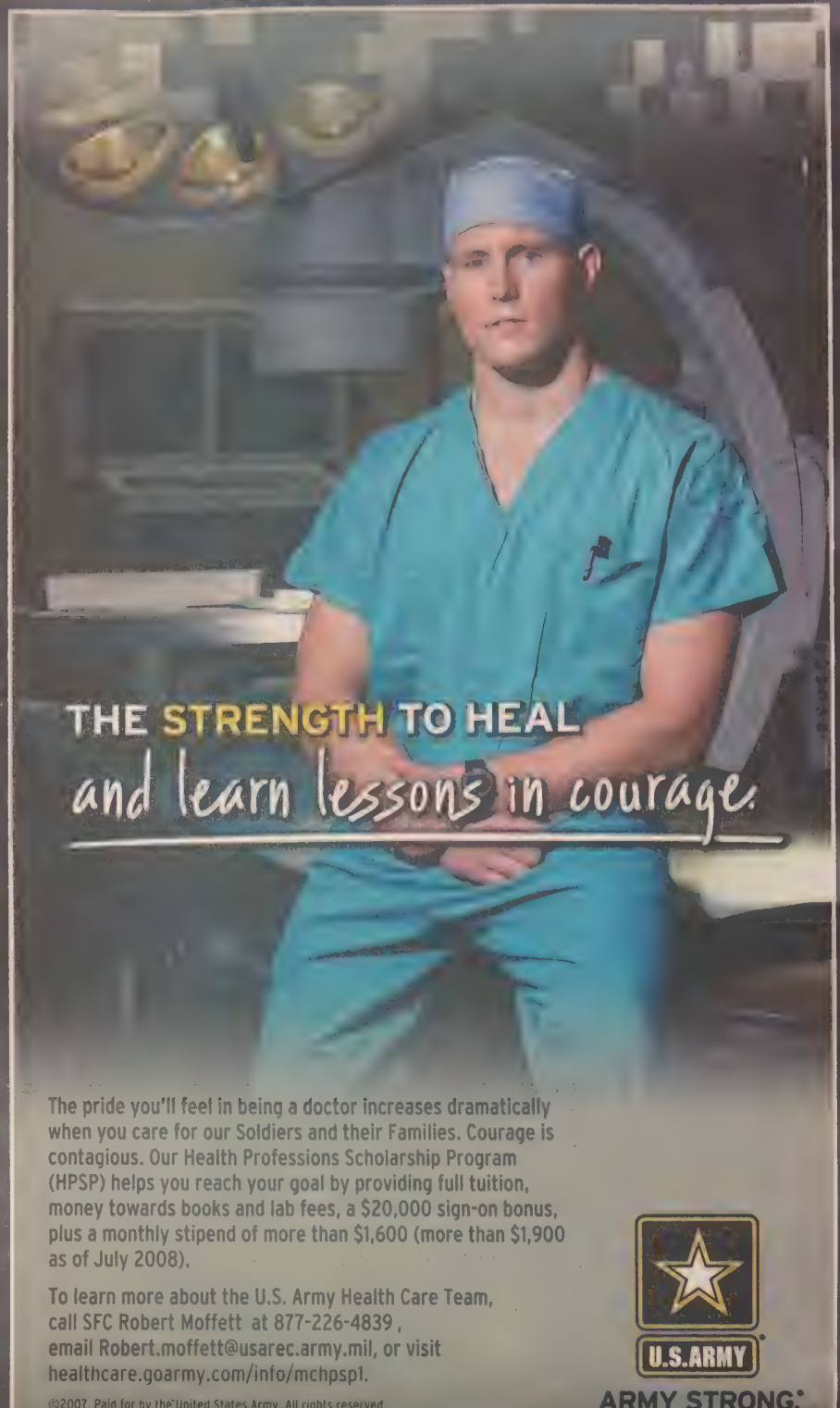
Why attack the Games when they themselves are not what you oppose? If you’re a politician or an athlete, the best way to voice your disapproval is not tacit nonattendance. You should demonstrate your censure by showing up and upholding the ideal that the Olympic Games symbolize: the showcasing of human potential through peaceful cooperation and competition.

Ravi Gupta is a junior public health and biology major from Philadelphia, Pa. He is the News-Letter Opinions Editor.

Thank you to everyone who
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Goral Makowski, the custodial staff,
Susan Boswell, Paula Burger, Matthew
Crenson, Dennis O'Shea and all Hopkins
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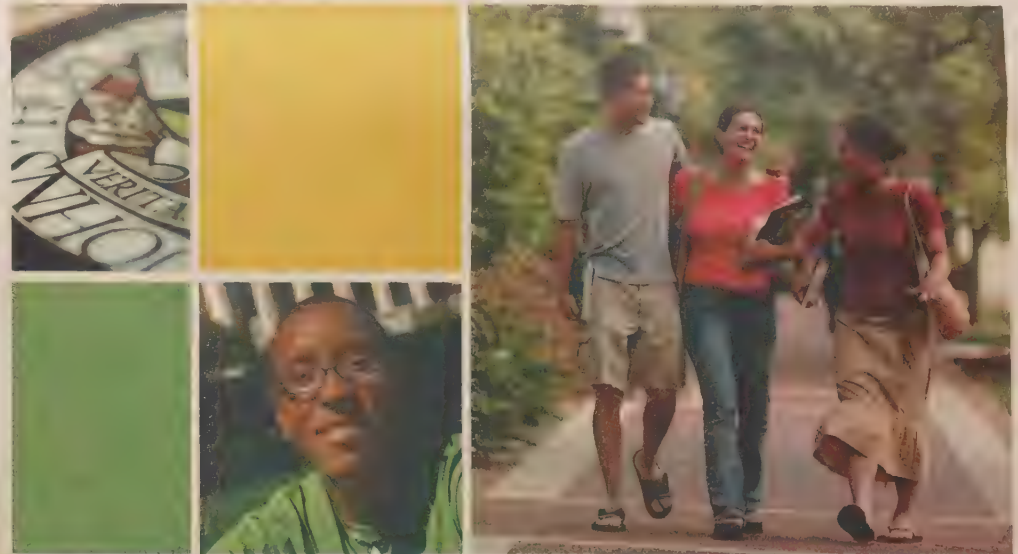
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THE B SECTION

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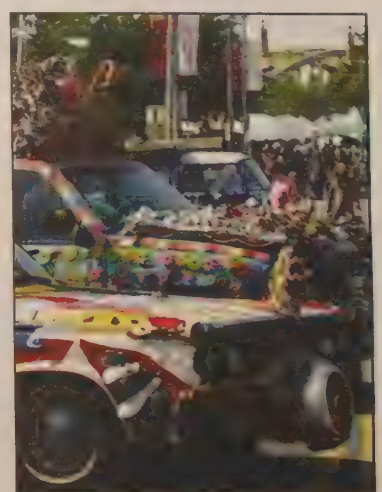
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From burying your Red Sox jersey under Yankee Stadium to eating apple pie before each tennis match, we all do crazy things to support our teams. If you too have fallen under the spell of sports rituals, take a peek at some of the things fellow Hopkins students have resorted to.



It just might be
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you're looking for
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SCIENCE

• Gym dreaders rejoice! Wii Fit makes you break out in a sweat without breaking out the sneakers, **B6**.

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Susan Boswell, Paula Burger, Matthew
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TERM II: JUNE 30 – AUGUST 1

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

JHUT's *Bus Stop* pleases with Midwest charm Spring Fair artists bring handcrafted goods to JHU

By PATRICK KENNEDY
News-Letter Staff Writer

The Johns Hopkins University Theatre's current production of William Inge's *Bus Stop* has been advertised as "a romantic comedy-drama." In other words, something for just about everyone.

Now that isn't automatically a good thing, and it might have invited a fair amount of pandering, except that director Peg Denithorne and her troupe of student actors balanced the more formulaic aspects of their chosen material against nicely-worked moments of irony and anguish. It helps that Inge's panoramic script eventually challenges and transcends a few of the Midwestern types that it sets on stage — and that it contains the kind of frank talk about sexuality that, in a play that premiered during the Eisenhower Administration, comes as a surprise. Because *Bus Stop* begins in a conventional tone, each of its later, offbeat notes is all the more rewarding.

On account of this, the Merrick Barn's audience can expect a plodding first act, a dynamic second and a satisfying though pathos-ridden third during this weekend's performances. It takes a few awkward introductions and corny jokes before Inge's characters are entirely in place. But once they're all assembled, it becomes clear that there isn't a dull role among them.

The JHUT production does contain a couple of inevitable and mildly distracting pieces of 1950s décor, and the actors' Great Plains accents ring false now and then. Thankfully, these few minor defects aren't enough to undermine a show that, thanks to a perfectly-selected cast, effortlessly brought the breed of artistry behind Inge's work to the fore.

The action of *Bus Stop* con-



Director Peg Denithorne and her talented cast bring William Inge's characters to life in their production of *Bus Stop* at the Barn.

finies itself to one frigid night in March 1955 and to one bus stop restaurant somewhere on the outskirts of Kansas City. That restaurant, Grace's Place, is run by the matronly Grace Hoyland (sophomore Evelyn Clark) and her young helper, Elma (sophomore Emily Daly).

Now and then, the "dingy establishment with few modern improvements" that Inge conceived sees a visitor, like Will the local sheriff (sophomore Richard Zheng) or Carl the bus driver (senior Anthony Chiarito). Shortly after the play begins, Carl, forced off the road by a snowstorm, arrives with his passengers. Accompanied by a nightclub singer named Cherie (freshman Emma Brodie) and a cultured Easterner named Dr. Lyman (junior Nicholas Scamman), he seeks refuge in the more or less deserted restau-

rant.

And that isn't quite everybody. Carl has two other passengers: a loudmouthed young rodeo star named Bo Decker (freshman Adam Reiffen) and his taciturn companion Virge (Peabody senior Iain Roush). When we first meet him, Bo is set on taking Cherie as his wife — regardless of what she wants — and hauling her back to his ranch in Montana.

It would have been possible for Denithorne to make their romantic misadventures the crux of the show and use everyone else for color or human interest. Yet even actors who disappear for substantial stretches, such as Zheng and Clark, deliver commanding performances. At the same time, a central conflict like Bo and Cherie's keeps the sprawling ensemble feel of this version of *Bus Stop* from degenerating into disorder.

As last fall's enjoyable production of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* demonstrated, the Merrick Barn's stage is most effective when most is stripped down. Matilda Spelvin's set design is convincing

enough — something like a poor man's Johnny Rockets. Too much bric-a-brac would have crowded actors like Reiffen, whose performance depends upon a grandiose and furious body language. As his foil, Virge spends a lot of time sitting quaintly in a corner, though Roush also supplies a few cogent moments of humor and melancholy.

The demographic cross-section setup that Inge's play employs might be familiar from Arthur Miller's 1955 one-act "A Memory of Two Mondays" — or, for a more modern reference, reality TV. Inge's incompatible strangers fill their own small space with plenty of mayhem but are never fully dislikable or — at least in a handful of cases — totally irredeemable.

Before the second act draws to a close, Scamman transforms Dr. Lyman from an out-of-place know-it-all into a besotted disaster. He's lamentable enough on his own, but the care that he receives from Elma — whom Daly plays as surprisingly intelligent,

CONTINUED ON PAGE B4

By NATALIE BERKMAN
News-Letter Staff Writer

draws many different kinds of people.

Every year Spring Fair transforms Hopkins into a cultural hub for three days. Restaurants come from far and wide to set up booths on the Freshman Quad. Over the weekend, many varieties of food ranging from Thai to Greek to funnel cakes and fried Oreos were available.

If the sheer quantities of junk food didn't induce nausea, there were also rides by the Mattin Center that weren't just for the kids.

The Keyser Quad became a place for artists and craftsmen to sell their works to students and Baltimoreans. Like the food, these stands had something for everyone.

There were toys for the kids, and candles, clothes, bags, jewelry and more for everyone else. It was easy to tell from the variety of goods at Spring Fair that it is a well-publicized event that

"We've been coming here for seven years," said vendor Joseph Bound, who sells amber jewelry at the Fair with his brother. "Another vendor told us about [Spring Fair]."

For them, it's a family business, and they have found that Spring Fair patrons are very interested in their unique products.

"University towns are very responsive. We find that there's a correlation between education and the appreciation of amber." They were just one of the many artists manning jewelry stands in front of Gilman.

For the Bounds, the selling of amber is a family business, but for others, these fairs are for fun and for making a little extra cash.

Sophomore Krista Rieckert is pre-med and majoring in history of science and technology, but making jewelry is a hobby for her.

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The handcrafted jewelry sold by local artists is popular among students at Spring Fair.

Fish, Bone Thugs perform different but effective sets

By CARA SELICK
Your News-Letter Editor

This past Friday, marking the true beginning of Spring Fair, hundreds of people flocked to the practice field, were felt up by security guards, and set up camp on the turf in small groups, waiting for the entertainment to begin. The air was warm and breezy and all conditions proved perfect for an outdoor concert. In typical Hopkins fashion, about an hour after its allotted time, the concert finally began.

Despite the various complaints and concerns about Reel Big Fish as a headliner for Spring Fair, these guys really pulled out all the stops. The minute they hit the stage, the six bandmates were teeming with energy, and it definitely transferred onto the crowd.

While there was a section of the crowd which was obviously lingering in the back waiting for the second act of the night, even they were bobbing their heads and trying to suppress a

smile. The band opened with a few jokes in a lighthearted tone that they maintained the entire show, accompanied by what is without a doubt their most well known song: "Sell Out." This was a very wise move on their part. Although the song may have been popular in 1997, when most of us were somewhere between nine and twelve, it is so catchy and was played so often back then that just about everybody at least vaguely recognized it.

It was a great segue into the upbeat sound of ska music, featuring all the instruments fairly evenly, including the trombone and trumpet, those classic big band staples of ska. By the end of the song, everybody was in the mood for a little time travel. For some unknown reason, a somewhat sad excuse for a moshpit formed in front of the stage. Luckily, a few musically educated people began a miniature pit of their own where they were all skanking.

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Reel Big Fish opened at the Spring Fair concert to an enthusiastic, lively crowd.

Experience music and art in Baltimore this summer

By ALEX BEGLEY
News-Letter Staff Writer

So you're in Baltimore for the summer. Maybe you're taking classes, maybe you're doing intensive research in a lab downtown, maybe you're bussing tables at Bert's and, who knows, maybe you have one of those cushy jobs at a law firm. Whatever you're doing you're probably going to be looking for some good ways to chill out this summer, get away from the 9-5 stress and let loose.

Lucky for you, Baltimore has something going on every weekend, if not every day as far as arts and music goes. So brave the sweltering heat and enjoy these awesome adventures.

Full House Festival (May 18)

Finals have been over for four days, and you still have four more days until graduation so live it up with the Full House Festival at the Floristree.

Full House features 13 bands in one day (night?) including names like Cluster — a freaking awesome experimental group from Germany that has been making electropop since 1971 (insert your own jokes here) — noise rock-ish Blues Control, Eric Copland (no relation to Stuart) with his harmonic and ambient music, Daniel Higgs of Baltimore's own Lungfish and more (including Tickle Feather, Black Vatican and Ponce Rocket).

It is a phenomenal line-up and is only \$15 in advance (\$20 at the door).

Artscape (July 18-20)

Every year Baltimore brings some of the best musicians in the country (not to mention the area) to the city streets for a free festival. The festival hasn't posted its line-up for this year's weekend, but in the last two years they've brought Common, G Love and the Special Sauce, Lupe Fiasco, Keyshia Cole, Rhett Miller, the Isley Brothers, Los Lonely Boys and Peanut Butter Wolf.

The streets (mostly Mount

Royal Avenue by MICA) are lined with local art vendors and don't forget to bring your wallet, because we are talking about fine art here.

Every year the line-up for Artscape gets more and more exciting. No matter what it is, it will be worth going to (also because it's free!). There is also the visual arts aspect of the weekend that is particularly exciting.

Last year there was one performer who had strapped himself to an acrobatic contraption that swung him above the street like an inverted pendulum. So cool. The year before a spontaneous breakdancing circle broke out during one of the DJ sets, and by the end of the hour there was a bigger crowd around the dancers than there was around the DJ.

If you plan on visiting Baltimore at any point this summer you should aim to attend this one, because it is outstandingly well organized.

Whartscape (July 18-20)

Whartscape is Wham City's freaky alternative to Artscape. It isn't free, but it sure isn't much (something like \$5 per night, a steal for the amount of talent you get to see). Whartscape, usually held at the Floristree space, goes long into the night after the crowds have cleared out of Artscape.

Last year's Whartscape hosted a Who's Who of Baltimore music, and it's a list of people who you probably wouldn't be able to see



Every summer the Artscape festival brings clever exhibits to the streets of Baltimore for a weekend.

for \$5 this year. Dirty Philly rapper Spank Rock was there, as was local punk rock group the Death Set, Dan Deacon, Double Dagger, Video Hippos, xBxRx and plenty more.

You never really know what to expect with this crowd, but brace yourself because whatever does happen will probably be awesome. And sweaty.

Virgin Music Festival

Two years ago we wet our proverbial pants when we heard that our future husband, Richard Branson, was bringing his famed Virgin Fest to our very own Pimlico Race Course. Last year when we saw the Police and the Beastie Boys as their headliners we counted the days until we could buy our own tickets.

This year's round of V-Festers needs little introduction: Bob Dylan, Iggy and the Stooges, Kanye West, Foo Fighters, Chuck Berry, Gogol Bordello, the Go! Team, Lil Wayne, Stone Temple

Pilots, the Offspring, Paramore, Cat Power and Bloc Party, to name a few.

For some reason the second day seems to be weighted a little heavier this year than it was last year (perhaps there were poor ticket sales on the second day last year) which is both good and bad. It's good because it's a greater incentive for us to try and tolerate the unbearable heat that kept us away from the second day last year.

But it also means that if any of these musicians are booked on different stages at the same time, we'd be forced to choose. And we're really not sure we want to deal with the moral warfare of having to pick Kanye over Dylan.

No matter why you are in Baltimore there is no reason to complain that there is nothing to do because these are only four events of many scheduled for the approaching summer months.

Hopkins Got Talent shows off students' skills

By HUSAIN DANISH
Special Editions Editor

Last Wednesday an audience of enthused students was dazzled and entertained by "War On Mind: Hopkins Got Talent." The American Idol-esque show, organized by the student group Vision XChange, brought together some of the top performance groups at Hopkins to raise money for UNICEF. Despite the controversy behind the event, Vision XChange successfully pulled the show off and attracted almost 200 students — quite the accomplishment for an event held in the middle of the week.

Renowned comedian Maysoon Zayid served as mistress of ceremonies. You know you have someone special when she introduces herself as "a Palestinian, virgin Muslim with cerebral palsy." She delighted audiences with hilarious anecdotes about her less-than-perfect journeys to the Newark Airport, her father who looks like Saddam Hussein and the customs of Muslims and Arabs. I was bawling in my seat — mostly because I knew exactly what she was talking about.

Maysoon's humor appealed to the general audience and not solely the Muslims and Arabs. Her witty and humorous comments struck a chord with the entire audience. Her humor complemented the evening rather than detracting from the humanitarian theme, bringing greater awareness to the cause.

Twelve different groups performed, each with their own energy and vitality that enhanced the show. Despite the great differences between each individual performance, the common thread between all of them was the energy and excitement they projected onto the audience. The audience swayed to the soothing melodies, clapped their hands to the beat and tapped their feet to the rhythm. Audiences were not silent observers but actively engaged in the performances, bringing vitality to show.

Bits and Pieces began the show with the song "My Pain," an original rock piece composed by band leader Haris Ali. The song was a nice mix of classic rock and jazz fusion, a combination that was, in a way, soothing. There were issues, however, with balance: At times the lyrics could barely be heard, and at others



Students performed song and dance routines for charity the Vision XChange talent show that aimed to raise money for UNICEF.

the drums would drown out the bass or the bass would drown out the guitar. Overall, however, it seemed the crowd was not fazed by this matter.

Jaywalk, the first dance group to perform, put on a spectacular performance. A fusion of ballet and modern dance, seemingly awkward combination of dance styles flowed perfectly together. Though at times the dancers appeared slow, their movements lacking fluidity, the fast tempos they maintained were amazing, and they dazzled the audience with their skills.

What at first seemed to be the most out-of-place performance of the evening, instead, fit quite nicely with rest of the program. Jocelyn Wagman's performance of Bach Suite No. 2 in G minor: prelude on cello provided a nice break from the energy acts of before. The music was poignant, yet, at the same time, it did not lull you to sleep. Despite the occasional out-of-tune note, the piece gave the audience a chance to take a breath and relax. In a way, the piece was haunting. It was neither loud overpowering nor soft and peaceful. The sounds of the chords lingered in the air, creating an almost evocative atmosphere.

The African Students Association quickly increased the energy in the audience with their dance performance. The performers danced to modern African music, an amalgamation

of hip-hop, reggae, jazz and traditional African music. The performance was extremely lively: Audience members were dancing in their seats and cheering the performers on. Despite not understanding a single word from the music, I could feel the power and energy coming from the dancers. The audience and I simply became enthralled in the performance.

Listening to Vivaz's performance was like going to the stereotypical jazz or poetry club in France. The performance was a wonderful combination of music, dance, poetry and singing. The balance was wonderful: The singing was not overbearing, and the chorus did not overwhelm the singers. The beat box and sound effects were even humorous at times, lightening not only the tone of the performance but the tone of the entire program.

The band Fortunate Son put on a spectacular performance. Their playing was excellent and their rendition of Jimmy Hendrix's "Fire" stayed true to the original. The saxophone solo which at first seemed completely out of place, was a very nice touch to the performance. Energy was emanating from the band. Simply put, it was awesome.

"Stop! Look at Me," simply put, is the king of introductions. As the song "Thriller" began, the performers, dressed as the living dead, rose from the audience.

One performer even jumped out of his seat, flew across several chairs and landed on the stage. However, this energy quickly dissipated as technical problems caused the music to stop to play. It took several tries before the issue was resolved and, by then, the shock from the beginning had dissipated and turned into frustration. Despite these problems, the dance group put on a wonderful show, paying homage to the pop king Michael Jackson.

Technical problems throughout the program took away from much of the excitement at times. Music skipped, started late or started early; the microphones would make loud, painful sounds during performances and in between acts. While these small problems did not destroy the show, they were nuisances that built over time.

Time also became a factor. The show started 40 minutes late and did not end until after 11 p.m. Yes, the show was entertaining, but it went on for too long.

Though the event's goal was to raise funds for UNICEF and Palestinian refugee children, Vision XChange chose to put their guest speaker at the very end, when most people decided to leave. The presentation by Amy Weir struck a deep chord with the audience. It is a shame that more weren't there to hear her message.

New Vibrations

ARTIST

Madonna

ALBUM

Hard Candy

LABEL

WEA/Reprise

RELEASED

April 29, 2008



we get an odd little dialogue between Madonna and Pharrell Williams, where he instructs her to go a "little lower baby," and Madonna complies by lowering her voice, below the point at which it sounds natural. Instead, she sounds a bit like a woman trying to imitate a man's voice — distracting, to say the least.

Madonna falters on "She's Not Me." The song chronicles the singer's feelings after being replaced in relationship by a girl who takes on all of her own characteristics, which "freaks her out." As the title suggests, the chorus gives reasons why the new girl isn't up to muster. And what, you may ask, are these no doubt compelling points that Madonna presents? "She doesn't have my name," explains Madonna. Well yes, we realize that — a bit insubstantial though, don't you think? Unless Madonna is referring to her "name" legally — which is worth something to the tune of \$400 million. Also, "She doesn't have what I have," though we never learn what it is that Madonna has, other than a broken relationship. We don't expect Tennyson from Madonna's lyrics, surely, but come on.

"Incredible" is supposed to be a second standout track, perhaps the next single, but I'm just not feeling it. There is arbitrary artificial doubling ("I c-c-c-can't get my head around it,") and the hook is a bit too airy to catch my dance reflex, and the melody is not interesting enough to stand without the beat.

On "The Beat Goes On," the beat simply doesn't. However, there is a guest appearance by the always entertaining Kanye West, whose self-referencing rhymes are worth a listen, at least.

"Spanish Lesson" is a fun little turn in the album, bringing in some Latin influences but is unlistenable to anyone who actually speaks Spanish. Sorry, Madonna, "siempre" only sort of means "I won't forget it."

There are a couple of good tracks on this album, and I'm sure they will get plenty of airplay over the next few months. If you like the tracks, iTunes them. Skip the album.

—John Kernan

ARTIST

dEUS

ALBUM

Vantage Point

LABEL

Cooperative Music

RELEASED

April 18, 2008



six minutes and change, with chantlike choruses, generous jam breaks and a lazy tone in the vocals. Not that it gets boring — it is nuanced, a subtle female voice flits in and out in the background, and the verse/chorus structure is different enough to make this, the longest track on the album, seem just the right length.

We jump back to funky with the other single — "The Architect." Apparently, the eponymous Architect has a grand plan for the restructuring of the world's society. Or something. In any case, the band's retelling of his story takes the form of a catchy groove-along rock song. The borrowed clips, evidently from some sci-fi B movie, only add to the fun.

This albums hold a little bit of everything. dEUS gives us progressive, funk, jazz, fusion, ridiculous sampling — whatever you like. An overall feel of bass, maybe a little bit of evil over shadows many of the songs, tying them together neatly without restricting them. A solid effort from the seasoned veterans. Now to find the rest of their albums.

—John Kernan

Literary magazines offer best of student art

By ALEX VOCKROTH
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Between classes, research and exams, many Hopkins students still find time to cultivate their creative sides. Perhaps the best showcase of the diverse talents of the student body is the literary magazines.

The University's oldest lit mag, *Zeniada*, and its newest, *Thoroughfare*, are set to print their spring issues in the next week. This year both lit mags will include video and music contributions in addition to poetry and prose.

Hopkins's oldest lit mag, *Zeniada* has brought the best of student art to campus for over 40 years. Since the beginning the staff has had one preponderant goal in mind: to make the humanities side of Hopkins more visible.

Though it's been around for a while, *Zeniada* doesn't show its age, as the staff consistently strives to keep it up to date. "This year we've added the video aspect to our magazine," said senior Sue In Lee, this year's editor-in-chief. "Because we've put our magazine online, we now have the ability to put up video works or color pictures."

Expanding to the Web created a lot more work, but *Zeniada* was up to the challenge, forming a staff that is triple the size of last year's.

The magazine's team is also working hard to heighten *Zeniada*'s presence on campus by holding readings and connecting humanities professors with students.

Things are looking bright for the

future of *Zeniada*, but the staff has had its share of hardships. "We did have somewhat of a withdrawal [of interest] the previous two to three years, but we've revived strongly this year," Lee said.

Part of the problem, she explained, is that students are reluctant to offer the fruits of their creative efforts up for public consumption.

"Many students will write poems, draw or create wonderful pieces of art but are shy to have their worked judged," Lee said.

Still, *Zeniada* is published every semester with more or less than 10 selections from each category. In coming years *Zeniada* editors hope to work with Hopkins's

other lit mags to organize an end-of-the-year reading of best pieces published in the magazines.

One of these other publications is Hopkins's newest lit mag, *Thoroughfare*.

Thoroughfare boasts the title of being the first digital literary magazine at Hopkins. Two years ago six friends decided to embrace the wonders of the digital age and use it to publish their work. Senior and *Thoroughfare* co-editor Jessica Begans was one of those six pioneers.

"We all wrote fiction, all sought out similar values in writing and all agreed on the vision of what our magazine would look like," she said of the ideas of *Thoroughfare*'s founders.

That vision has come to fruition thanks in large part to a grant from the Digital Media Center that allows the magazine to publish both online and on

CDs. This approach brings the idea of the literary magazine into the 21st century, Begans said, because it "enables us to showcase film, music and art alongside the classic literary magazine fare of fiction and poetry."

This year's *Thoroughfare* team included the addition of several underclassmen. Though their contributions have diversified the content, Begans is the first to admit that collaboration can be a tough obstacle.

"Some of them have different ideas about what makes good fiction and poetry than do the old editors, but we managed to agree on which pieces should go in the magazine," she said.

The work that did end up in the spring edition is a broad, varied sample of the artistic talent at Hopkins. Much of the material is fiction written by Witness Theater participants, a natural transition for these writers. "Obviously a lot of good writers at Hopkins flock to the theater!" Begans said of the contributors.

Music also makes up a portion of the selections in the issue. Senior Liz Eldridge and juniors Adam Lempel and Amit Routh each offered original recordings about such wide-ranging and bizarre topics as country singers, cults and "teeny musicians."

The final product of their hard work is about to hit campus, and the staff is excited to share it with Hopkins. The Web site will be ready for viewing next week, and hardcopies will be widely available on campus. In addition, *Thoroughfare* is throwing an official launch party at Minás Gallery and Boutique in Hampden.

Look for the spring issues of both *Zeniada* and *Thoroughfare* on campus next week and online at <http://www.jhu.edu/zeniada> and <http://webhost5.nts.jhu.edu/thoroughfare>.

JHUT's Bus Stop takes an engaging look at rural life

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B3
unflaggingly sweet and appropriately awkward — makes him seem tragically helpless.

Inge once described the script as "a composite picture of varying kinds of love ranging from the innocent to the depraved."

Bus Stop doesn't avoid the usual clichés about love, maturity and wrong choices. It simply juxtaposes and combines them in ways that are unexpected and consistently, paradoxically intriguing.

Yet the Theatre's actors do manage one moment of sublime lunacy. About halfway through the second act, Elma and her visitors decide to put on a talent show to pass the time — featuring first some of Virge's guitar music, then a scene from *Romeo and Juliet* delivered, in part, by an abysmally drunk Dr. Lyman.

For the finale, Cherie croons "That Old Black Magic." What we get is not so much a piece of feel-good nostalgia as a sequence worthy of John Waters: a mixture of camp and absurdity that finds Brodie in black sequins, bombarded with Reiffen's loony enthusiasm and surrounded by the garish yellow walls of Grace's Place.

So perhaps this *Bus Stop* does offer something for everyone — including critics who, like myself, have a taste for plays that are ambitious enough to be somewhat flawed and flawed enough to be massively interesting.

Bus Stop will be performed on Friday, May 2 and Saturday, May 3 at 8 p.m., and on Sunday, May 4 at 2 p.m. Call (410) 516-0618 for more information.

Local artists add unique flair to Spring Fair

Continued from Page B3

"I haven't done any work at my desk this semester because it's just covered with beads!" she said. This was her first year selling her wares at Spring Fair, but she is definitely interested in coming again next year. "It's pretty awesome," Rieckert said. "My friends have been helping me sell stuff. All the other craft-people are really nice, too."

Many of the vendors were quite impressed by the Home-wood campus. "This is my first time here," said Victoria Lynn, who sells her homemade Bling Bags, which are made out of clothes. "The campus is beautiful. It's very impressive. I started with the purses and kept improving on them. It keeps evolving. I'll just think one day that I can make backpacks out of baby overalls!"

For Lynn, however, Hopkins hasn't been a great place for business. "[The students] have been looking, but I don't think they have any money. They've been nice, though." At her stand, Lynn also sold some jewelry for a friend and fellow artist. "She's at another show. She makes the jewelry, and we help each other."

Another vendor, Johnsy Gon-



Artists from Baltimore and beyond come to Spring Fair not only for business but also to enjoy the campus and the festivities.

soles, echoed Lynn's sentiments about setting up shop at Hopkins. "This place is very nice," he said. "The show is fun, too."

Gonsoles is originally from Ecuador, but he moved to the United States 10 years ago. He owns a shop that sells homemade

toys and instruments.

"I play everything I make," he said. "I make the music with my brother."

He's good at what he does too, as any passerby at the Fair last weekend could tell. Throughout the Fair, Gonsoles played one of his homemade flutes to accompa-

ny the music of CDs, and the music was very relaxing. The CDs he and his brother make were also up for sale, as were their hand-crafted and hand-painted flutes, which were truly beautiful.

Other vendors offered painted products as well. "We actually do all the hand paintings, and my mother got the idea from a friend of hers who she met at another craft show," said vendor Shane Hostetter, who was manning the booth for Pat's Crystal Nail Files. He and his mother found out about Spring Fair through a craft show book, and he seemed to be happy with his experience at Hopkins.

"I think I've had a lot of inquiries. One girl was here three times and bought all three times!" Hostetter said.

In addition to jewelry, bags and toys, there were myriad

other homemade goods for sale. One artist sold paintings, another man sold roasted nuts (and gave out free samples!), and there were people selling incense and candles, too.

One of them was Oliver Wilson, whose candles were certainly interesting. They come in a variety of scents and are made in beer bottles.

"It was my friend's idea," Wilson said. "I just help him make them. We've worked at bars for a while, so there's got to be something to do with it." Wilson also said that Hopkins students really liked the candles.

Students and community members were lucky with Spring Fair this year. Apparently, it usually rains.

"At least one day every year, we were closed," Bound said. "Except this year." The vendors generally agreed that their success here is weather-dependent and that this year, they were lucky.

So, if you bought them, put your jewelry, instruments, nail files and beer candles to good use, and if not, there's always next year!

Reel Big Fish, Bone Thugs play different, effective sets

Continued from Page B3

the form of dance appropriate to accompany ska music.

The band gave the school its money's worth. The members themselves were outgoing and dynamic personalities who kept the energy up throughout their set. Aaron Barrett, lead vocalist and guitarist and only founding member still a part of the band, was perhaps the most effervescent of them all. With their eclectic and bright clothing, as well as sunglasses at night, they admittedly looked a bit odd for people of their age (or anybody above fifteen); however their oddities only further energized the crowd.

Einstein is often attributed to having said, "The definition of insanity is continuing to do the same thing over and over, and then expecting different results." If following this standard, there were several insane people present at the Spring Fair concert, especially during Reel Big Fish's set (perhaps by the time Bone Thugs-N-Harmony came on, they had finally learned.)

People made constant attempts at crowd surfing, only to find time and time again that Hopkins students are apparently not strong enough to hold up other Hopkins students. Person after person fell through the crowd, landing in all sorts of painful looking positions. Many people also attempted to smoke up, only to have security follow their smoke trails and kick them out of the show within minutes. And yet moments later the next person would try it.

While I confess I didn't really recognize most of the songs, despite being a semi-fan back in the day, I had a great time, and it seemed as though everybody else did as well. While Reel Big Fish may have gotten some smack weeks ago, they delivered a solid set, and, most importantly, a good time. The show was fun, funny, light, danceable and just about every-

thing that Spring Fair should be really be about, rather than just obtaining a big million-dollar headlining band.

After waiting almost a full hour between bands, Bone Thugs-N-Harmony finally graced the stage. Interestingly, the crowd shifted, and those who spent Reel Big Fish's set in the back eagerly pushed their way to the front while the previous moshers either hung around the back or left. While Bone Thugs perhaps didn't play as dynamic and energetic a set as RBF, their skill more than made up for it.

The group mostly just wandered around stage randomly while rapping and didn't have as much crowd interaction. However, most of the people who bothered to stick around for the second half of the concert knew the songs, even if they couldn't actually follow along. All members spat out rhymes and rants so incredibly fast it was almost impossible to even discern what they were saying.

But not necessarily in a bad way. Their deft tongues were a source of amazement, and of course the consistent and contemporary beats kept the crowd bouncing and dancing the rest of the night. Luckily, they performed the only two songs I previously knew, "Thuggish Ruggish Bone" and "Crossroads," both of which were greatly received by the remaining audience.

Although both groups had very different performance styles and musical genres, they somehow combined to make a very satisfying show overall. While some less musically open-minded people may have been peeved at having to sit through one set to get to the next, I found the two very dissimilar flavors of musical talent to complement each other well in their extreme differences. The concert set the tone for Spring Fair and left everyone present with expectations for a good weekend



Vendors at Spring Fair sold handmade jewelry, instruments and other original wares.

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Photoreceptor “noise” affects quality of vision

By **BEN KALLMAN**
News-Letter Staff Writer

Humans are overwhelmingly visual animals. While most other mammals are sniffing around their respective worlds, we rely on the sharpness of our eyes for information about our environment. (Try sniffing around for a staircase, and you'll likely break a few bones.)

Much of how the visual system works has been elucidated (pun intended) in the last few decades, but a lot is still not well understood.

We know, for example, that the gift of sight boils down to about 100 million specialized cells in the retina, the thin layer of tissue at the back of the eye.

These cells, called rods and cones, are responsible for translating variations in light — different wavelengths, different intensities and so on — into an electrical signal the rest of the brain can read and ultimately use to construct a picture of the world.

How rods and cones make their electrical signals is a wonder of evolution. Each rod or cone contains a light-absorbing pigment; rods have rhodopsin and cones have cone opsin. When an opsin absorbs light, its shape changes, allowing it to bind to a certain protein.

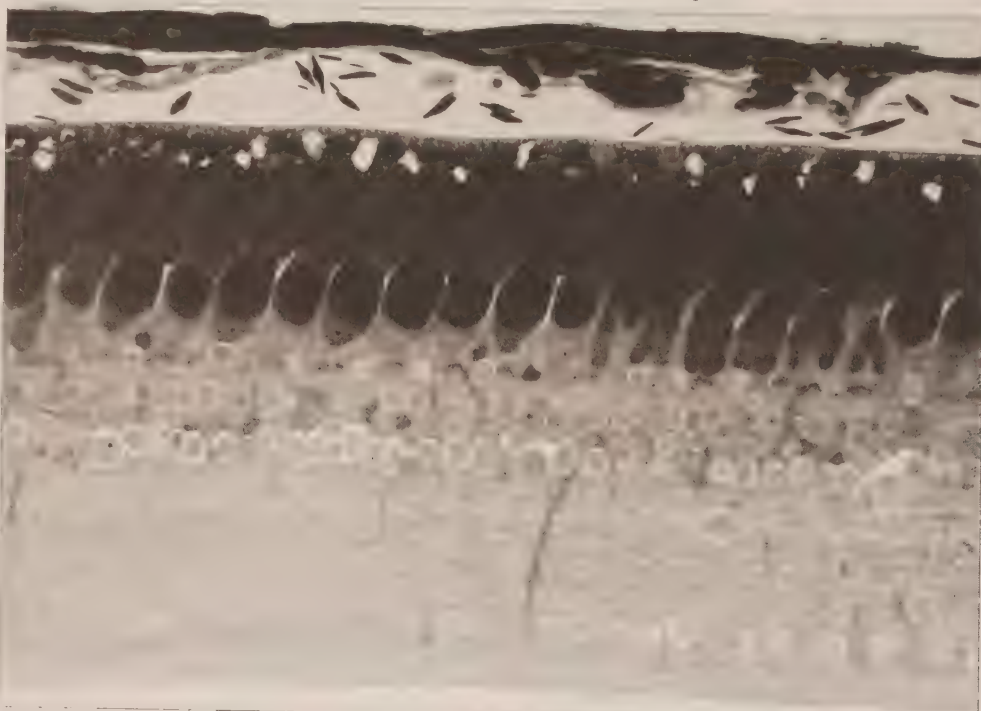
This sets off an intricate, multi-step pathway of protein activation and deactivation whose eventual outcome is the closing of millions of ion channels and the alteration of an electric signal to the brain.

When these channels are open (in other words, in the dark), positively charged ions, such as sodium, flow freely into the cell, creating what scientists call a “dark current.”

When they close, however, the influx is blocked, and with time, the cell's charge becomes more and more negative. This hyperpolarization, as it's called, is the electrical signal that tells the brain that light is present.

This process is pretty well described, but one of the field's irksome mysteries is why rods and cones are differentially sensitive to light. Rods are mainly active when light is low, around dusk or in poorly lit rooms, while cones respond to higher intensities of light such as those present throughout the day.

A group of Hopkins scien-



Photoreceptors, the vertical columns at top, have baseline levels of quantal noise that affect their ability to encode light signals.

tists, led by King-Wai Yau of the School of Medicine, sought to find out why.

To do so, they capitalized on the fact that the brain can sometimes get confused. The inherent and necessary ability of opsins to change their shape has some unfortunate side effects, one of which is called “quantal noise.”

This happens when a pigment changes shape spontaneously without having absorbed any light. This “gives rise to a false light signal that the animal cannot tell apart from real light,” Yau said.

In other words, the brain reads “light” even though no light is actually present. Quantal noise thus puts a limit on the extent of our visual sensitivity since, in very low light the brain can't be trusted to distinguish between real light and quantal noise.

In rods — or more accurately, the protein rhodopsin — this noise is very low: about 0.01 false signals per second for each cell. Low quantal noise in rods is what allows us to pick up on incredibly small amounts of light.

For example, under the right conditions, humans can detect a single photon, the smallest possible amount of light energy in the universe. Cones, however, are a different, trickier story.

They are much less sensitive to low-intensity light. Hundreds of thousands of photons need to be absorbed in order to activate a single cone opsin. Based on the fact that rods have both low quantal noise and high sensitivity, the relative insensitivity in cones was thought to be a result of high quantal noise.

This, however, was just a theory. The quantal noise of a cone opsin had never been directly measured; individual false signals from cones are undetectable (with current technology, at least).

To get around this technical barrier, the Hopkins team availed themselves of some creative mouse breeding, creating a strain of mice whose rods, in addition to a full or half-size complement of rod pigments, also had genetically inserted red cone pigments.

Rods, of course, are much more sensitive to light; thus the quantal noise of the inserted red cone pigments became more easily detectable. Indeed, “the frequency of spontaneous events was low enough to be individually counted,” Yau said.

That wasn't enough, however. To further boost the false signals, the red cone opsin-insertion mice were bred with another group of mutant mice that lacked a protein

known to dampen the hyperpolarization signal.

Ultimately then, the researchers had mice with red cone pigments in their rods and rods, in turn, that produced amplified signals.

Several measurements and calculations later, the team had some surprising results. Spontaneous changes in the shape of the red cone opsin accounted for only about nine false events per second.

This is significantly more than the 0.01 in rods, but previous work had observed a total of 6,400 false events per second from each red cone. In other words, and contrary to the prevailing theory, the lion's share of false signals coming from red cones was not a result of quantal noise.

This revelation has produced something of a mystery: What's causing those other 6,391 false events every second? “Besides the quantal noise coming from the pigment, there is other noise originating from the steps in the phototransduction process downstream from the pigment,” Yau said.

“This other noise is sometimes called the ‘continuous noise’ because it is not quantized like the quantal noise.”

It's not easy to distinguish the two types of noise, so most scientists have in the past just lumped them into an equivalent measure of noise (the 6,400 false events). “Sometimes it's OK not to treat the two types of noise as separate,” Yau said, “but other times it's important to separate them, as we have done.”

Wii Fit: interactive game offers high-tech exercise

By **DENNIS KO**
News-Letter Staff Writer

The Wii Fit is a game, much like Wii Sports, coming to the Nintendo Wii in mid-May. Nintendo has been famous for putting out games that involve new interactive concepts, like Brain Age for the DS and Wii Sports for the Wii, along with their other famous franchises. (Heard of Mario?)

The Wii Fit is at heart a game that tries to force even the laziest of people to exercise. Through the use of the Balance Board (this comes with the game) the system is able to know how well you're performing certain exercises in the game.

The Balance Board has weight and balance sensors on four sides of the board, so it is able to tell how much you're leaning on one side and if you're stepping correctly.

Some of the exercises in the game include classic push ups and lunges, but it also includes things like jogging, boxing and yoga exercises.

This game is certainly a great idea to turn normal exercising into a game, and I can see why Nintendo opted to do this. It promotes the novelty of the Wii system, and it attracts a very wide audience to their platform. Not to mention that exercising is actually healthy.

But personally, no game exercise can ever truly replace real exercise. I mean, running in place

on a board isn't really quite like running outside with the wind blowing in your face.

Of the people I've known who've used and tried this, it seems that the Wii Fit does make you work up a sweat if you push yourself hard enough, and most people have actually seen improvements in their individual statistics after using the Wii Fit for some time.

So for the casual person who didn't care too much for exercise, this might actually motivate them to actually do some exercise and stay healthy.

For those hardcore athletes out there, this isn't a game for you, but rather for your parents to use and try to keep up with you the next time you hit the court.

For \$90, including the Balance Board, the game is a bit pricey, but with the innovative interface (and knowing Nintendo's history of churning out hit games,) Wii Fit is sure to be a success with the “gamers” out there. Make sure to check it out when it is released on May 21.

WII FIT

From: Nintendo

Price: \$90

Available at: Video game stores

Grade: B



Nintendo representatives present the Wii Fit Balance Board at an event last summer.

Transgenic mosquitoes could fight malaria

By **TIFFANY NG**
News-Letter Staff Writer

Approximately 500 million people contract malaria each year, and another one million die from the disease. Malaria is caused by a parasite that is transmitted by mosquitoes; humans contract the disease primarily from mosquito bites.

Though there are drugs that combat the disease, they do little to stop the actual spread of the disease. Furthermore, many parasites have developed resistance to the more commonly used and readily available drugs, such as chloroquine, requiring the use of more expensive and dangerous drugs.

Insecticide-treated mosquito nets have been effective in preventing malaria transmission, but after decades of use, insecticides have begun to lose their efficacy against mosquitoes that have developed a resistance.

Therefore, it is clear that new methods for preventing the spread of malaria are necessary. Scientists have gone straight to the source of the disease and have identified mosquitoes with natural resistance to the parasite. They have subsequently been able to introduce the genes that confer this resistance into the genomes of mosquitoes that normally do not exhibit this trait.

With these genetically modified “transgenic” mosquitoes, the ultimate goal would be to introduce them into wild mosquito populations, which would spread the malaria-resistant genes throughout the population. However, these transgenic mosquitoes may be unable to survive as well as the wild populations.

At the Bloomberg School of

Public Health, researchers tested the fitness of these transgenic mosquitoes compared to wild-type mosquitoes. Three populations of transgenic mosquitoes were observed, and compared with unmodified mosquitoes, they typically exhibited longer larvae development times, lower male mating rates and reduced net reproductive rates.

When transgenic and wild-type mosquitoes were raised together in cage experiments, two of the populations remained stable, but one decreased gradually. This decrease is due to the fact that the transgenic mosquitoes reach sexual maturity later than the wild mosquitoes, allowing the wild populations to get a head start on mating and reproduction.

Though these experiments demonstrate the need to produce

multiple lines of transgenic mosquitoes to determine the one with the greatest fitness, it also has several important ramifications for the eventual introduction of transgenic mosquitoes into the wild. Since these mosquitoes generally do not survive as well in the wild, the methods to introduce them into the wild must

give them a significant advantage over the natural populations.

Additionally, there are several ethical, legal and social issues that surround the potential introduction of transgenic mosquitoes into the wild. Not only are there concerns over the environmental impact of releasing genetically modified organisms, there is also the matters of consent and consensus of the communities into which the mosquitoes would be released.

Nevertheless, this research has the potential to significantly reduce the incidence of malaria in countries where the incidence of the disease is high and preventative measures are low. By targeting the sole transmitter of the malaria parasite to humans, the disease can be stopped before it even affects the lives of those living under malaria's threat.



Genetically altered mosquitoes may halt the spread of malaria.

Genetics affects gender differences in OCD

By **ANN WANG**
News-Letter Staff Writer

Like many psychiatric disorders, obsessive-compulsive disorder, or OCD, has an underlying genetic cause for many patients. Now a research team led by Ying Wang of the Hopkins School of Medicine has linked several genetic mutations to OCD and discovered that these mutations differ between men and women.

The study involved 219 families in which at least two siblings, or first or second degree relatives, like cousins, both had OCD. In each case, the symptoms of the disorder had developed before age 18.

Because the exact genes that cause the disease are not known, the research team looked for patterns shared by the chromosomes of those family members who had similar diagnoses.

These genes, which are located close together on a single chromosome and are often inherited together, are said to be linked. A linked genomic area common to many people with OCD suggests that the region may harbor genes that contribute to the disorder.

The research team found six mutations, all of them involving only one DNA base pair change, that were significantly associated with OCD. Four of these mutations were associated only with families where the affected members were all male.

None of these mutations were associated with families in which the affected members were all female. These results suggest a significant difference in what causes OCD to develop in men versus women.

Obsessive-compulsive disorder is classified as an anxiety disorder. A person with OCD suffers from repeated and obsessive thoughts and fears, such as of contamination by bacteria, of harming self or others, of moral doubts and so on.

People with OCD are known to have recurrent images of harming a loved one or of somehow contracting HIV. Compulsions are actions such as hand-washing, counting or getting HIV tests, that are performed to relieve the anxiety the obsessions cause.

People with OCD then feel anxious that the action was not enough to prevent the obsession from happening and must compulsively repeat the action.

OCD occurs with equal frequency in men and women, affecting one to three percent of the population. On average the symptoms of OCD develop at age 10, and usually before age 40, although people can go for many years without a clear diagnosis. Like autism and schizophrenia, the symptoms of OCD are expressed differently between genders.

Women with OCD are more likely to have contamination ob-

sessions — anxiety about coming into contact with bacteria and contracting disease — while men are more likely to have aggressive or sexual obsessions. While the frequency of compulsions is equal between genders, women's compulsions have been shown to be more severe.

Symptoms are also more likely to develop in women during middle age, especially after pregnancy and delivery. Men developtics such as Tourette's Syndrome, a related condition, at an earlier age and more frequently.

The results of this study are not comprehensive enough to explain all the differences in how OCD is expressed between genders, but they definitely suggest that the differences are genetically rooted.

The researchers speculate that sex hormones play a role in regulating the genes in question, or that in males, the Y-chromosome interacts with the cell's mitochondria to produce these differences.

The team plans to look at other variables in families that include people living with OCD. For example, the six mutations linked to OCD that they found were all located in a cluster of genes known to help process our sense of smell, suggesting that those with the disorder have changes in how they perceive smells. The team plans to pursue this link in future studies.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Bubbles give insight into universe

By JEROME SIMONS
News-Letter Staff Writer

Imagine blowing soap bubbles when you were younger. Picture the thin, sparkling film of soap spreading out across a loop of plastic or metal wire, slowly building into a fragile sphere that comes loose and floats away.

It turns out there is an entire branch of mathematics devoted to the study of this sort of phenomenon. Patrick Zulkowski, a Hopkins grad student, along with his advisor Chikako Mese, are conducting research into the minimal surfaces between closed curves, a somewhat abstract problem with real-world consequences.

This question goes back to Plateau's Problem, a famous dilemma that dates to the 19th century. Joseph Plateau, a Belgian physicist, was interested in soap films and their surfaces in a closed loop of wire. His study of their properties led to the formulation of Plateau's laws, which describe the structure and behavior of their surfaces.

The essential law governing their behavior is that the soap film, due to its natural surface tension, wants to form a film with the smallest area possible. In a free-floating soap bubble, surface tension causes bubbles to form a perfect sphere. Things are more complicated while the growing bubble is still attached to the wire.

Zulkowski, who received a bachelor's and master's from the University of Delaware, studies these surfaces. But what would higher math at Hopkins be without some extra complexity? His studies take place in a multidimensional space, far beyond the normal realm of our three- (or four-) dimensional lives.

In order to explain his work, Zulkowski makes an analogy to our world. A geodesic is the shortest connection between two points. Here, geodesic is just a

tancy way of saying straight line. But those lines vary as you add more spatial dimensions. The shortest connection between Baltimore and Los Angeles would definitely be a little bent, since our planet is a ball and not a flat plane.

As you add dimensions, finding the least distance, the geodesic keeps on becoming more complicated as you move on from the plane to a sphere all the way up to unimaginable spaces — spaces that do exist according to mathematicians and physicists.

Zulkowski and his advisor cannot draw pictures of these spaces, but they can set up curves that connect points in them using equations. "We don't know if a curve exists, we just know about its length," Zulkowski said.

In fact, the researchers are able to set up not just one, but an entire set of curves, which then becomes a sequence. If a shortest distance exists, this sequence of curves should converge on a solution.

"We need to prove that the sequence becomes a terminal curve which becomes the shortest

connection, the geodesic," he said. This sounds fairly simple up to now, but modern mathematicians only have two "toys" to play with: a distance function between two points and simple knowledge about the length of the

least distance.

This is not a whole lot considering that they deal with something so far beyond human perception. "Our basic objective is to say as much as we can with the little knowledge we have," Zulkowski said.

"In our moments with high self-confidence we say that success in our work could lead to the connection between quantum physics and general relativity," Zulkowski said.

Currently general relativity, the physics of large objects, does not comply with quantum

physics, the physics of small objects. Why should they? Because it would make sense to get the same answers no matter how large or small the numbers being plugged in are.

General relativity assumes that mass and the subsequent mutual attraction between massive bodies are created through the curvature of space. This idea was one of Albert Einstein's greatest contributions to physics.

This is where Zulkowski's research comes in: Mathematicians like him try to gain an understanding of what the curvature looks like. This has been possible for about a hundred years, ever since Einstein formulated his famous equations.

But now, mathematicians take another feature into account when dealing with the curvature being important for general relativity: the quantum hypothesis. The latter assumes that space and time come in fixed portions — that they are *discrete*.

In the quantum world, you can walk one mile or two miles, but not one and a half miles. Everything in the quantum world, from matter to energy, is said to be quantized into discrete units.

All that mathematicians have to do now is figure out what mathematical systems look like if the universe really does work like that. Zulkowski's work would be successful if he could define curvature in discrete spaces.

He is working with coordinate systems with a few thousand axes, also known as manifolds. A typical axis you might work with in a math or physics class has just two or three axes, x, y and maybe z, each representing a different dimension.

If successful at defining curvature in discrete space-time, the basic criterion for general relativity would be fulfilled and all gravity would be a consequence of curvature. This time though, the quantum hypothesis is also on board.

"The fact that there are so many elegant and beautiful aspects of math makes me believe that math already exists and we discover it," Zulkowski said. "The logic that forms the basics of math is built into the fabric of our reality."

Nerve stimulators help with depression

By ALICE WU
News-Letter Staff Writer

As much as antidepressant drugs have come to dominate the popular discussion about the treatment of depression, they are not effective for all patients. In fact, between 6 and 13 percent of patients in a five-year study of depression remained unresponsive to treatment.

These patients suffer from treatment-resistant depression and present a need for the development of alternate treatments that are effective and long-lasting.

Vagus nerve stimulation, or VNS, is a therapy for severe depression in which small electrical impulses are delivered to the vagus nerve via an implanted neurostimulator. The vagus nerve, the largest of the cranial nerves, extends from the brain stem into the abdomen and innervates several organs and brain regions.

The procedure was first found to be effective in treating patients with treatment-resistant epilepsy. Researchers found that patients who did not respond to standard antidepressants were more likely to have successful outcomes with VNS.

However, the difference in the patient pool in which the experiments were conducted plays a significant role in determining the effectiveness of VNS in treating depression.

Taking that into consideration, researchers from multiple institutes across Europe teamed up with the Department of Psychiatry and Mental Health at Hopkins to evaluate the efficacy and safety of VNS in treating depres-

sion in a different pool of patients.

Patients suffering from non-psychotic major depressive disorders including both bipolar and unipolar disorders were chosen from across six European countries: Belgium, Germany, Ireland, Sweden, Switzerland and the U.K.

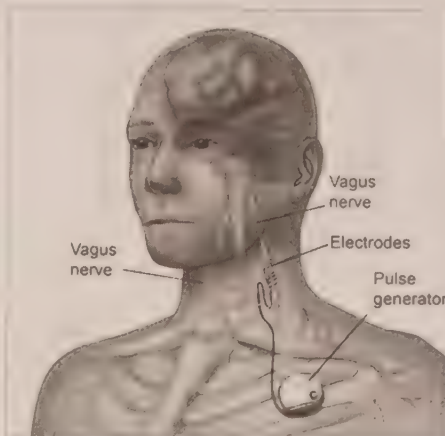
The electrodes for VNS were then implanted into these patients and treatment was delivered for 10 weeks. The patients involved were too depressed to be taken off their medications and given only sham stimulation.

The protocol followed for the European study is similar to those followed by U.S. studies focusing on VNS treatments. Statistical analysis of the follow-up data demonstrated that there is a significant decrease in the severity of depression for patients who have undergone VNS treatment.

A year after the initial treatment, there was a decrease of depressive symptoms in 41 percent of patients.

Nevertheless, VNS treatments do have adverse side effects, with the most common ones being voice alteration in 63 percent of patients, cough, pain and shortness of breath. These side effects were mostly restricted to the time of active stimulation.

In both the study conducted in the U.S. and in Europe, research-



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Vagus nerve stimulation uses electrodes under the skin.

ers found significant evidence to conclude that VNS reduces the severity of treatment-resistant depression.

The efficacy of this treatment was larger in the European sample because the treatment response rate increased to 53 percent after one year of VNS therapy.

However, this high efficacy could be attributed to the lower measures of baseline depression, that is, a lower standard for measuring how depressed the patients were.

It is also unlikely that the patients' response to VNS therapy is due to placebo effect because the patients studied were highly depressed and are less likely to show placebo response.

In addition, the study demonstrated a high proportion of sustained antidepressant response over time, which opposes the less stable improvements associated with placebo effect in antidepressant studies.

Think you're mentally normal? Think again

By SAM OHMER
News-Letter Staff Writer

It's fairly normal for people to wonder whether they are "normal" or not. When performing diagnostic tests or psychological research studies, it is important for doctors to be able to define and determine "normality" as accurately as possible.

A battery of tests — from brain imaging studies to preference surveys to diagnostic tests for mental illness — are dependent on the definition of normal and abnormal scores or outcomes. Usually these values are determined by experts after many rounds of testing.

The problem is, for years researchers have noticed that supposedly normal people don't always test normally. Even the epitome of healthy brain activity can be a little tilted, according to test results.

That poses a challenge for doctors and researchers alike: How are we to divine true abnormalities when even relatively healthy people are giving whacky test results? A new study from Barry Gordon, a Hopkins neurologist, and colleagues at Yale University and Hartford Hospital, both in Connecticut, offers some insights into this phenomenon.

First, they found that the mere fact that someone tests abnormal-

ly does not mean they are brain damaged. Healthy people sometimes give odd test results and unhealthy people can sometimes test normally. The important thing is that doctors use common sense — or additional clinical clues — to try to reason whether a person is truly damaged.

Second, these abnormal test results in apparently normal people are not entirely a random effect. People are more likely to score abnormally at least once if they take many tests. If the proper criteria for abnormality are imposed, the likelihood of abnormal tests scores also decreases.

That makes sense: Even if you take a test and get a hundred, that grade really isn't a truly accurate description of your knowledge because if you kept testing over and over, eventually you would probably get one wrong. The military follows this logic when testing applicants; if you get 50/50, your "real" score is 98/100. Hoorah!

Third, abnormal testing is not tied to gender in any statistically significant way. Men are not more likely to be "abnormal," nor is the reverse true, despite what you may want to think about your most recent ex. Race was also not a significant factor.

However, rates of abnormality do show interesting correlations to age, education and IQ levels.

But even after these variables are factored out of the equation, scientists have still found that certain levels of abnormal testing in healthy adults are "normal."

It is vital that doctors receive accurate tests for the normality of their patients' performances so they can make accurate and helpful diagnoses. Therefore, the team has concluded, there are certain statistical models that predict levels of abnormal test scores in healthy, normal adults.

But because the simulations are not always perfect, the best way of analyzing test results is this: If a patient tests normally more often than is predicted for normal people, that person is likely to be fine.

The opposite is also generally true: If a person tests significantly more abnormally than the predictions for a normal person, it might be that the person's brain is somehow not working at normal capacity.

But that's about as accurate and straightforward as the test results come. Mainly, it's important that doctors use their training and keen skills of observation.

The point to go home with is this: "Abnormality" rolls along a bell curve, so even with one little abnormality blighting your record, you're likely ahead of the curve, anyhow. This is Hopkins, after all.

Fatty acid enzyme levels affect lung cancer

By NEIL NEUMANN
News-Letter Staff Writer

A recent article from Francis Kuhajda and Edward Gabrielson, both in the Department of Pathology at Hopkins Hospital, reports that inhibition of an enzyme upregulated in lung tumors may have the potential to prevent growth of those tumors.

Currently, lung cancer is the leading cause of deaths from cancer in the United States and other industrialized countries. Lung cancer, once at an advanced stage, is a nearly intractable disease with a high mortality rate after five years.

About 21 percent of the United States population smokes tobacco, exposing them to high levels of carcinogens, or compounds that cause cancer. Even those who do quit smoking are still at a high risk for developing lung cancer.

With this information, the researchers from Hopkins decided to focus on developing a drug

chemopreventative agent that would prevent cancer development.

The researchers investigated a compound known as C93 and its ability to specifically inhibit an enzyme in the body known as fatty acid synthase (FAS), which is involved in the fatty acid synthesis pathway. Fatty acid synthesis is important for maintaining cellular membranes and it has been shown previously that FAS is upregulated in many cancers, although its mechanism of action remains elusive.

The researchers wanted to do two things in this study: show that FAS is upregulated in early lung tumors and test the ability of C93 to inhibit lung tumor formation in mouse models of lung cancer.

Using immunohistochemistry to look for expression of FAS, the team found that 90 percent of a specific tumor found in the lungs of smokers overexpressed FAS. This directly compares to the normal tissue found in the samples taken from lung cancer

patients, which expressed no detectable levels of FAS.

Next, using carcinogens commonly found in cigarettes, the researchers induced lung cancer by exposing mice to the chemicals. They repeated the experiment and found FAS overexpression in this mouse model, allowing them to conduct research on FAS inhibitors.

Using the mouse models, the researchers treated the cancerous mice with C93, a FAS inhibitor. When given the carcinogens in conjunction with C93, the mice had a reduced number of tumors compared to untreated mice by 75 percent, a marked reduction. Also, the size of those tumors that remained decreased substantially, making this chemopreventative compound highly effective.

Although these results are promising, the researchers did not know the mechanism of action in the cells and what C93 does inside tumors to prevent their growth. Extending their analysis, the researchers found that a protein known to be upregulated in cancers was also activated in their lung tumor models in mice.

This protein is called Akt, which is a protein involved in the cellular pathways of apoptosis, or programmed cell death, and also protein synthesis. Akt is phosphorylated in its active state, and it was shown by the research group to be active in lung tumors.

Interestingly, upon treatment of the lung tumors with C93, the levels of activated Akt dropped to a remarkably low level, suggesting a strong link between FAS and Akt pathways in lung cancer.

The researchers hope to bring this drug to the clinic to prevent lung cancer before it begins. An interesting side result from the analysis of C93 is that it is non-toxic at levels used to prevent lung cancer formation.

With these results in hand, the team from Hopkins has promising results in the fight against cancer.



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The enzyme fatty acid synthase shown above is involved in cancer development.

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YOUR NEWS-LETTER

Staying sane in a summer sizzle! Stock up when you move off campus

By CARA SELICK
Your News-Letter Editor

If this past Saturday was any indication, the upcoming months should be sunny and warm. While some people may find such weather to be pleasant, others, such as myself, are more prone to finding it uncomfortable and overwhelming. While it may be tempting to hide in your air conditioned room throughout the summery season, there are several ways to keep cool while keeping social, or at least within the company of one special someone.

The easiest way to cool down is to take off your clothing. I personally am more of a fan of winter because you can always layer on more sweaters, but there is only so much you can take off before you're ripping off layers of skin. While you cannot necessarily walk around naked on a daily basis, you can wear as little as possible. Call me a skank when I venture out scantily clad in the summer, but it's self preservation. The heat can melt you, especially if you're in a city mid-July. Cute

sundresses that seem fashionable are actually just being health conscious!

Now, while you're naked or wearing next to nothing, there is always the very distinct possibility that you will run into somebody else wearing next to nothing, find his or her next-to-nothingness attractive, and end up wearing absolutely nothing together.

While sex and summer flings can both be highly enjoyable activities, they also involve intense physical activity, if done correctly. Even if naked as the day you were born, scintillating encounters can still leave you in an uncomfortable sweat.

There are several ways to try and remedy this. The first would be to take advantage of the summer and have your tryst in a pool. I'd suggest a beach, but not only is it cliché, it also very impractical — sand, enough said. However, if you're lucky enough to own a private pool in your home, take advantage of it at night when you don't have friends over for a pool party, please. Unless you're into that kind of thing, in which

case, I'm not one to judge. Or, you could use some cheesy wipe-off-the-grime-of-a-hard-day's-work line and get it on in the shower. Either way, water is always an easy remedy to heat. Basic physics, or is it chemistry?

The solid form of water is just as effective as the liquid, if not more so. Ice, in any form, can cool you down almost immediately. Whether dragging cubes sensually along someone's back during a massage, or more innocently sucking on a flavored popsicle, some frozen H₂O can make life in the summer much more manageable. And of course, while stuck in this water track, I feel it almost unnecessary to mention that it's always a good idea to drink tons of water and keep hydrated.

Of course, too much time in the sun and anybody will start to feel the effects of the heat. But that doesn't mean you have to sacrifice your life and go hide next to your vents at home! There are certain places that offer the same cool comfort that allow you to spend time with your friends.

For instance, malls are often well air conditioned starting in June. Even if you don't particularly want to spend money on a shopping spree, malls can be great places to just walk around with your friends, people watch, gossip, grab an ice cream cone and just relax.

Restaurants often are cooled down as well. It seems the more expensive the cuisine, the colder the climate. In fact, as you tiptoe into gourmet, it sometimes even becomes unbearable and a sweater is a must!

Movie theaters are another great place to steal cool air. Summer always boasts some pretty big blockbusters worth seeing, and as long as you don't mind dishing out 10 bucks for two hours, it can be a pretty entertaining way to spend an evening.

Pool halls often can be air conditioned, believe it or not. Not bars, but establishments devoted solely to pool and billiards tables, are often more fancy than you may be led to believe and possess the luxury of cold air and the chance to knock around some balls with sticks with some of your closest pals.

Whether you decide to spend your summer naked under a tree or fully clothed in an over-air-conditioned office building, it is important not to stay out in the sun for too long. We wouldn't want all your naked cool bodies getting cancer or heat exhaustion!

By LIZ SCHWARTZBERG
Managing Editor

While moving off campus can be a hassle, it's almost always worth it. You'll wind up with a much more pleasant living situation, often for a fraction of what it costs to live in the dorms. The rules are also more lax, so you'll be able to burn candles freely and have pets. But unfortunately, there are several things you will need to buy in order to achieve true off-campus bliss.

There are a lot of things you might never think to buy if you have been living in the dorms for a few years; living in a dorm could never completely prepare you for living in an apartment.

For starters, you will probably have to buy a shower curtain, and ideally it will be aesthetically pleasing, or at least mentally stimulating. Sometimes former residents leave behind awful vinyl shower curtains with little tacky sailboats on them. Take my advice and throw them out. There are a million pretty shower curtains to be had from Target or Pottery Barn — Anthropologie makes some gorgeous ones, but they start at \$50 and go up from there. Urban Outfitters makes shower curtains with blown-up black and white pictures of London, Paris and New York, as well as ones covered in SAT words, French vocabulary or the periodic table-perfect for the average Hopkins student. What could be better than improving your vocabulary while rinsing off a grueling, sweaty all-

nigher in the HAC lab?

In the kitchen, you will have to worry about stocking some more serious kitchen supplies than what you had in the dorms. Maybe you have four burners to work with now instead of two, which means that you can cook a real meal for you and your friends like a normal adult. You'll want to get some more pots and pans and perhaps a big pot to cook pasta in. If you've never had an oven before, now would be the time to get some cookie sheets and baking pans. You might need more serving utensils, a can opener, a cheese grater and, most importantly, the ever-elusive corkscrew. You can finally sit back and enjoy one of the best parts of living off-campus: imbibing alcohol at home without the fear of getting caught. Living in an RA suite for a year, for instance, makes you much more aware of the importance of this fact. It's better not to keep alcohol in dresser drawers and always have to drink it warm.

You'll need a tool set, or at least a hammer and a set of screwdrivers,



COURTESY OF JOHN PRENDERGASS

You might have more space to fill than you've ever had before.

a table and chairs is great for studying or having people over to cook. If you study at a desk, you'll obviously need to buy a desk and chair. Also, a couch, an armchair and a coffee table can make your apartment a much more sociable place. Buying these things secondhand from graduating students will be easier on your wallet and your possibly limited transportation options. Nobody wants to attempt to squeeze an armchair into a small car or onto the Colletown shuttle. If you don't have the room or money for all these furnishings, everyone will probably just end up on your bed.

And on that note, if you only buy one thing for your new off-campus digs, please make it a bed. As with many things in life, the bigger, the better — and beds are no exception. There's no better reason to move off campus than the prospect of getting a larger bed. Why would anyone live off campus and have twin beds? It's a pretty wonderful feeling to be able to lounge around without fear of falling out of bed. Get a bunch of pillows and a fluffy comforter to make your bed a place where you (and hopefully other people) want to lie down.

While these things cost a lot, it's a small price to pay for the sheer joy of escaping the institutional life of the dorms. It's good to make your own decisions and figure out how you want to live as opposed to how someone else expects you to live. That is one of the most important things to learn in college, and if living off campus helps you learn it, then we should all get out of the dorms and into apartments of our own.



LAURA BITNER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Eating ice cream is an easy and delicious way of cooling down during the summer!

YOUR tracks

Compiled by Lauren McGrath

School's almost out! Whether you're road-tripping, barbecuing, catching up with old friends or driving your parents crazy (kids these days!), tunes are a must. This playlist has a little bit of everything for every summertime mood. Enjoy your summer fling with The Cardigans, fight off the boredom blues with The Dandy Warhols and bounce your way to work with some '90s Vengaboys.

- 1) "Roots, Rock, Reggae" – Bob Marley
A summer standard. Fire up the grill, and chill out with Marley.
- 2) "Stuck in the Middle with You" – Steeler's Wheel
- 3) "Hot in Herre" – Nelly
OK, I know. Just give it another try. If nothing else, it'll help you remember summers past.
- 4) "Let's Go Crazy" – Prince & The New Power Generation
Nothing says summer like Prince.
- 5) "Banana Pancakes" – Jack Johnson
A perfect song for a rainy day.
- 6) "Smoke It" – The Dandy Warhols
- 7) "Lovefool" – The Cardigans
So you can pretend you're in a summer-release romantic comedy.
- 8) "Dirty Laundry" – Bitter:Sweet
- 9) "All Star" – Smash Mouth
A '90s summer staple.
- 10) "The Boys are Back In Town" – Thin Lizzy
This is pretty self-explanatory. Wreak havoc in your hometowns, my friends.
- 11) "Switch" – Will Smith
Summer is for watching re-runs of "The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air" at 4 a.m., so you might as well listen to Will Smith's music, too.
- 12) "You Got Yr. Cherry Bomb" – Spoon
Fun, interesting and different. Hopefully, this will describe your summer too.
- 13) "The Boxer" – Carbon Leaf
- 14) "Come Together" – The Beatles
- 15) "Boom Boom Boom Boom" – Vengaboys
You remember this song. Give into the urge to sing along.
- 16) "Australia" – The Shins

Leaving your roommates behind: from suite to efficiency

By LAUREN FLUGER
News-Letter Staff Writer

Several weeks ago I wrote an article about living with my current roommate, a very close friend of mine. To quickly recap: My roommate very much appreciates cleanliness, while you might say I am more relaxed about housekeeping.

We worried at first that this would present a problem. After all, many close friends who move in together do not speak by the end of the year. Yet luckily my friend and I have managed to live together successfully.

And yet, my lease for my off-campus efficiency starts this week. That's right: I'm living by myself next year. "How did this happen?" my friends understandably question. "Trouble in paradise? I thought everything was great," another friend volunteered a week ago.

To which I sighed: "We both thought she was going abroad for the semester and I didn't want to have find another roommate." With her springtime absence in mind, I signed my lease and happily received my free key chain.

However, my roommate decided shortly after I committed to my new home that she would stay in Baltimore next year. "No!" I cried angrily. Why couldn't you have told me that before I signed my lease?" "I'm sorry," she responded. "I just didn't know. This really [is] quite unfortunate."

We glanced at the Ben & Jerry's carton and red nail polish in front of us. We were having a

girls' night and we knew it was one of the last. We heard Britney question through the speakers of my laptop: "Loneliness up ahead, emptiness behind, where do I go?"

We shook our heads, laughing. How melodramatic. But we both knew what the other was thinking: It will never again be the way it is right now.

It hit me: I am living on my own next year. True, I had a sin-

There won't be any RA around to comfort me when I almost electrocute myself pulling out a deformed MacBook charger from the socket in the wall. I won't be able to take the elevator downstairs and ask maintenance to clean the part of my carpet where I spilled 3x concentrate detergent.

In short, I will be granted an unprecedented amount of independence. No more midnight runs to Charles Street Market.



ANNE FABER/GRAPHICS EDITOR

gle in the AMRs but my neighbor and good friend lived next door. My wonderful RA lived right down the hall. And I had friends in the adjacent houses.

But it will be different next year. There is a good chance I will not know my neighbors.

And when it's 3 a.m. and I can't sleep, no best friend will be there to pop in and ask, "Hey Fluger, enjoying life?"

But I'll cheer up. Living by myself has major perks. No roommate asking you to please stay in your room for the next several

hours. No doors opening and closing. No bathroom to share. No *High School Musical* blaring from the other room. (OK, that's not fair: we both enjoy the *HSM* soundtrack.)

At first I thought, what will I do at one o'clock in the morning when I need advice and my roommate is not there? How will I be able to sleep? And then a more reasonable voice answers me; going to bed is the best thing you can do for yourself anyway. You'll see your friend in the morning."

In fact, living by myself will probably be quite empowering. I stayed on campus this past intersession.

I have to say, I was more focused on my schoolwork, ate more healthily and went to the gym more often while on my own. So I know I can take care of myself. Actually, I am quite excited about it.

My three friends are in one apartment to the left, another living a few blocks to the right, and me, basking in the silence and spaciousness of my new efficiency.

My roommate finally found an apartment: She is living with two other mutual friends in a three-bedroom apartment, leased at an excellent price. My three friends are in one apartment to my left, and another will live a few blocks to the right. Several more are living across from the Hillel building, where I spend much of my time.

Ultimately, between my large efficiency, and their great deals, I'd venture to say that we will be just fine.

CARTOONS, ETC.

your Horoscope



Aries: (March 21 - April 19)
If the going gets tough, maybe you should change your major. If it gets too tough, maybe it's time that you looked into a job at Starbucks.



Taurus: (April 20 - May 20)
You should be wary of truckers making "come hither" eyes at you. Better yet — avoid all people who give you "come hither" looks.



Gemini: (May 21 - June 20)
Move on. (S)he is just not that into you. Perhaps it's time to invest in a pet rock; he'll always be loyal and strong.



Cancer: (June 21 - July 22)
Into the Woods is a musical with a moral. Look before you go to kiss your grandmother; those big teeth may be hereditary.



Leo: (July 23 - August 22)
The end is almost near. Maybe it's time that you actually met the TA grading that final on Thursday. Bring an apple, it might help.



Virgo: (August 23 - Sept. 22)
Library overdoses include: fear of paper cuts, an inability to alphabetize and proper recitation of the Dewey Decimal System.



Libra: (Sept. 23 - October 22)
Next year, go after that hottie. Who knows, you might fall madly in love or realize that it's Hopkins. They're probably a "Nottie."



Scorpio: (October 23 - Nov. 21)
Week after week, it's been raining. Invest in a raincoat or be the lucky guy to catch the girls in white T-shirts dashing from MSE.



Sagittarius: (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)
Please cover your mouth when you sneeze. Sharing is caring, but only with gum and not your gross, slimy germs.



Capricorn: (Dec. 23 - January 19)
Remember the memories you made this past year or drink to forget them. Whatever works best for you.



Aquarius: (January 20 - Feb. 18)
Your head will hurt. Your eyes will water. Your brain will want to explode. Welcome freshmen, to the wonderful world of finals.



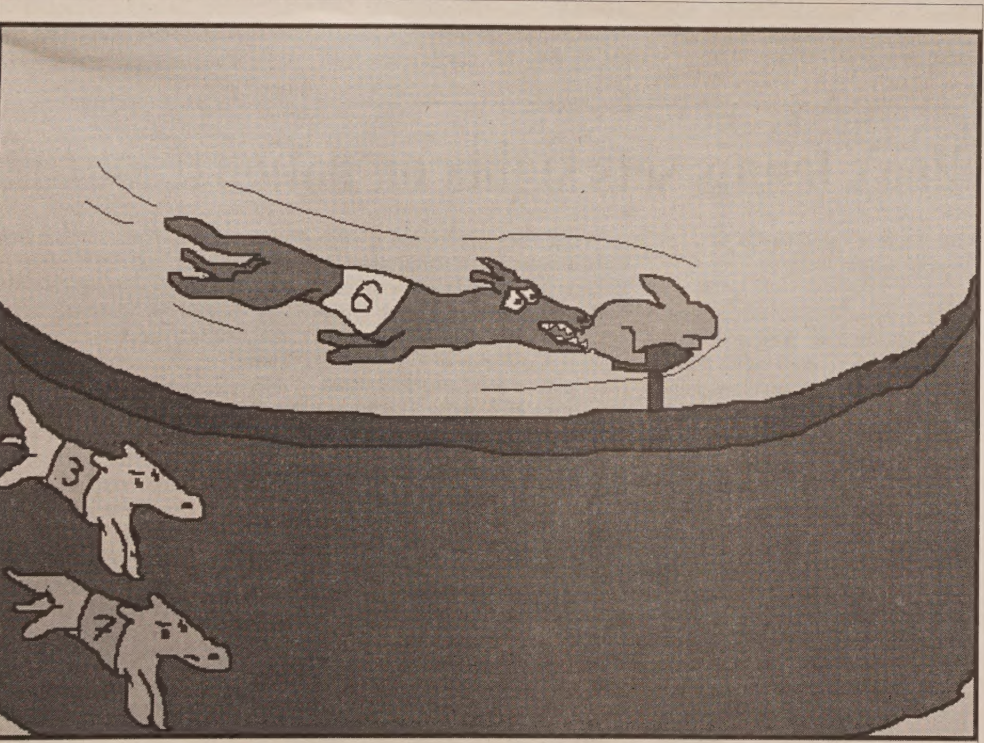
Pisces: (Feb. 19 - March 20)
Deodorant works miracles. Apply daily and you will continue to have friends. Or, you can bond with your pet donkey. Whatever.

Sudoku

		7	4	5				
		6					4	8
8	3			7		2		5
	1				4			
4		3		5		6		2
				1			4	
1			2		8		3	4
	8	6					9	
					9	8	5	

A Photo in Time

by Nate Min



Bailey was a little too good.

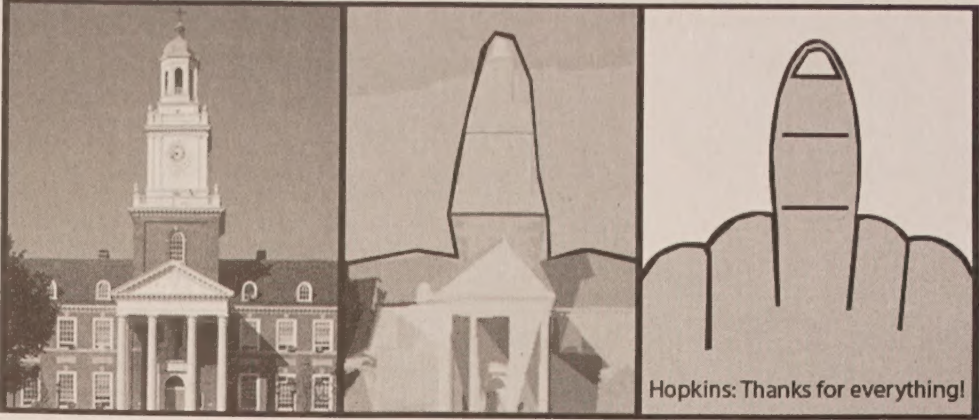
Third Person Objective

by B.G. Warner



Comicali

by Joe Micali



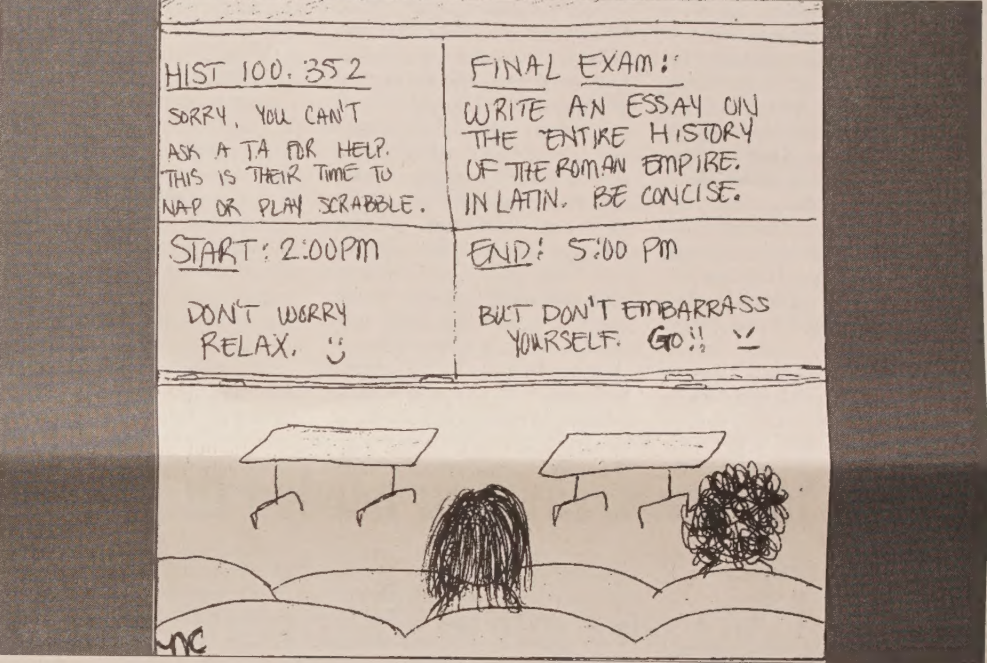
Wasted Ink

by Nate Min



Random Information

by Natachi Chukumerije



Notes to a new generation

Hey all you new freshmen and prospective students who grabbed this paper on a campus tour! I'm Hopkins's one and only Party Girl! I've been an undergrad at this school for six and a half years and on academic probation for three. I've been a member of and kicked out of every sorority on campus (Theta twice) and therefore have snorted, sucked and drunk everything you can name as well as some things you wouldn't wanna name. And I'll put it delicately: I've had more bone in me than a spoiled puppy. I'm graduating from this joint by the skin of my teeth -- in short, I'm qualified to give all the advice you'll ever need to make college friggin' sweet. So without further ado, here we go.

Homework and work in general is for chumps. The way I see it, there are enough easy classes in this place to graduate in under seven years and never actually work — I'm living proof. You take five classes a semester, pass the two that happen to be easy, fail the two that happen to be hard and in seven or so years, hey! Diploma time, babies.

Look, if college were about getting out as fast as you can with a clean record, they wouldn't call it college, they'd call it jail. And believe me, Hopkins isn't anything like jail.

College at its worst is better than jail. I spent two days in Baltimore City Central Booking last semester on suspicion of assault with a deadly weapon. Turns out their suspicions were right; I had attacked some bro with a broken beer pitcher I'd found in PJs. I don't remember it, but there were a lot of pictures so I guess I owe some apologies. Anyway, the food is comparable and the administration is similar but the dorms are bigger than cells and the toilets flush so stay in school kiddos. Toilet Cabernet has nothing on Franzia except the price.

College is nature's answer to poor judgement. I bet you thought you became accountable for your actions the day you turned 18. Wrong! You've got at least another four years, seven if you play your cards right (see above), of making reckless decisions with almost no consequences. Wanna have a huge party and let people roll joints with your bedsheets? Do it! Hankering to have reckless, unprotected sex with seedy strangers? Me too! How about we climb on the roof of a private building and light trash on fire? What do you think I'm doing right now!?

College is full of people who, in normal society, would be classified as alcoholics, addicts, nymphomaniacs, pyromaniacs, kleptomaniacs, rapists and sociopaths. But this is college — experimentation is the whole point. You can do, say and wear almost anything and get away with it by explaining, "Hey man, I'm in college." Try it ... if you dare.

Life doesn't stop when you

Jackie Jennings
Wacky, Irreverent Fun!

think you're pregnant. At any given time, I might be pregnant. But you know what? I might have a lot of diseases or various psychological problems. I've got a wicked rash on my left leg and whenever I hear a French horn my eyes twitch pretty badly. But you can't let the little things get to you. Just get out there, have a beer and live your life. C'est la vie and carpe diem and bailamos, mami!

Life also doesn't stop when you're blackout drunk. I'm not a math major but I would estimate that I don't remember 35 percent of the total time I've spent

at Hopkins. And that doesn't include sleeping. So there's a lot of memories I have only through pictures and other people's stories. Trust me, this is the way to forge a personal history. If I could clearly remember everything I've done or said, there would be nothing new to discover about myself as time went rolled on. I like mystery and excitement — it's as though life is a constant game of Clue involving mixed drinks and sexual acts instead of weapons and murder.

Plus, I can't wait for reunions when all my friends and I get together and say things like, "Hey, remember when Jackie did this?" Because, no, I don't remember. Why don't you tell me about all the inappropriate places I vomited back in the day. I can't wait to find out!

Never forget, college is the best four to seven years of your lives. It's true. Look around. This little campus may not look like much more than red bricks and darker-red bricks and that's because it isn't. It's what you make it. You could spend the next years "learning" about "society" and "yourself" and "foreign languages" if you want, but consider this: By the time we're as old as our parents, the world will be run entirely by robots, and everyone will speak two languages: Esperanto and the international language of love. That's just a fact.

Look, you need to take this campus by the balls from day one and have as much unadulterated fun as possible. Listen to no one's advice, waste no time and never say no. Every time I've thought something was a bad idea it's turned out to be way more fun than all the things I've thought were solid, sensible plans. So live a little, love a lot and ask questions in about seven years.

And remember, if you really screw up college, there's always grad school.

SPORTS

Men's lacrosse blows past Mount Saint Mary's

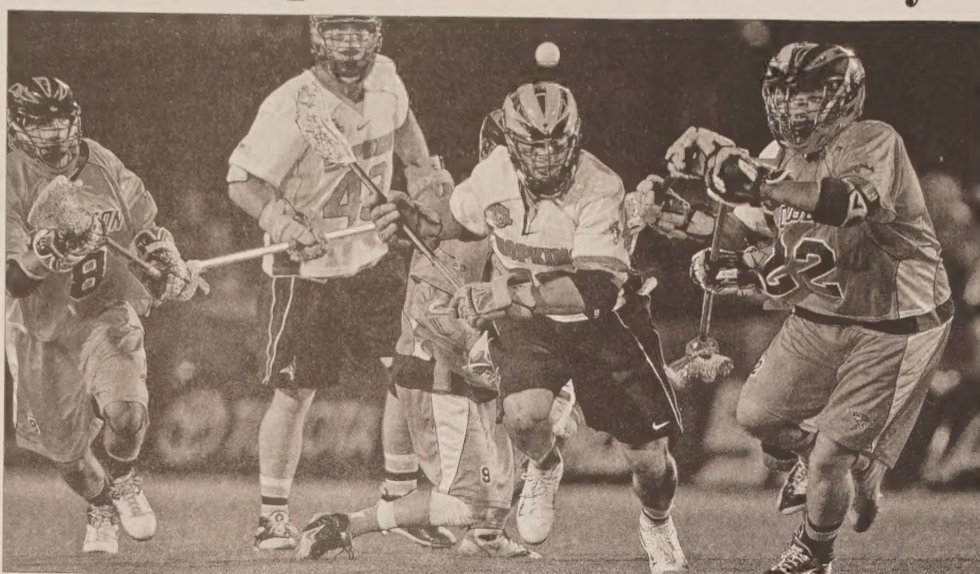
By MIKE PORAMBO
News-Letter Staff Writer

On an overcast Monday evening, the fifth-ranked Johns Hopkins men's lacrosse team hosted in-state rival Mount St. Mary's. The Blue Jays (7-5) were looking to win their fourth straight game and close out their last regular season home game with a win. And they did just that. With big performances by sophomore attackmen Steven Boyle and Michael Kimmel and junior midfielder Austin Walker, who each contributed two goals, the Jays blew past the Mountaineers (2-12), by a score of 12-1, at Homewood Field.

Despite the very lopsided result, the score did not truly reflect just how well the Blue Jays played. The Hopkins attack absolutely shredded through the St. Mary's defense with complete ease, and if not for many miraculous saves by the Mountaineers freshman goalie T.C. DiBartolo, the score could have been much more severe.

Hopkins wasted no time getting to work. Only 49 seconds into play, senior midfielder Paul Rabil found an open Boyle in front of the crease for his first of the day. Six minutes later, Kimmel fired home his first as well to give Hopkins a 2-0 lead, but three and a half minutes later freshman Mountaineers midfielder Jon Rodrick made a nice move, splitting the defense, and firing a shot just below the stick of Blue Jay goalie Michael Gvozden. That would be the first and final goal for Mount St. Mary's. Gvozden and the Hopkins defense played superbly, and held the Mountaineers scoreless for the remaining 49 minutes.

Later in the quarter, the Jays capitalized on Mount St. Mary's turnovers, and senior Kevin Huntley found himself all alone on a breakaway and easily shot it



SHIV GANDHI/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Senior midfielder Stephen Peyser works to regain possession of a loose ball in Monday's game against Mount Saint Mary's.

past DiBartolo for his 26th of the year. Only 56 seconds later Walker found the back of the net for his first of the day, giving Hopkins a 4-1 lead at the end of the first quarter.

The second quarter was a defensive struggle, with both goalies playing very well. Gvozden and the Hopkins defense shut down the Mountaineers attack, and DiBartolo continued to make miraculous save after save, making seven second-quarter saves. But eventually his luck ran out. On a nice ally dodge, Kimmel scored his second of the day with two minutes 17 seconds remaining in the quarter. With a man advantage and time winding down in the half, Rabil took control, firing a shot past DiBartolo with only four seconds remaining in the half, his 21st on the season. The Jays enjoyed a 6-1 lead heading to the locker room for halftime.

Coming out of the half, the Blue Jays immediately sent the message that there would be no comeback hopes for the Mountaineers. Only 13 seconds in, senior midfielder Stephen Peyser beat DiBartolo for his 16th goal of the season. Boyle got his second of the day and his 13th of the season on a nice move from behind the net and fired it in from up close with nine minutes 39 seconds left in the quarter. Later in the quarter junior attackman Tom Duerr scored his third of the season to close out all goal-scoring in the third quarter. Heading to the fourth quarter, Hopkins enjoyed a comfortable 9-1 lead.

Many different Blue Jays got to see some playing time in the fourth quarter, and the fresh faces were up to the task, playing excellent lacrosse. Two Blue Jays scored their first goals of the season: junior attackman Josh Peck and freshman midfielder Tim Donovan. The Hopkins defensive

unit smothered the Mountaineers attack, only allowing four shots in the fourth quarter, and only 28 for the game, compared to Hopkins's 44.

Gvozden had a great game, allowing just one goal and making seven saves before giving way to Trey Sheain and Nolan Matthews. The last time Johns Hopkins held an opponent to only one goal occurred on April 24, 1999, when they beat Navy 11-1. Nine different players were able to score for the Blue Jays, and five players had multiple points, with Rabil and Huntley scoring once and assisting one as well.

For the Mountaineers, DiBartolo was clearly their player of the game, finishing with 15 saves. Their offense struggled against the clearly overbearing Hopkins defense, with Rodrick's goal in the first quarter their only of the day. The Mountaineers also struggled to maintain possession, turning the ball over 16 times.

Johns Hopkins closes out their regular season this Saturday, making the long trek up Charles Street to take on Baltimore rival Loyola (MD). The match is scheduled to begin at 1 p.m.

W. Tennis takes home second conference title

By KATIE MOODY
News-Letter Staff Writer

The Johns Hopkins women's tennis team captured their second straight Centennial Conference Championship when they defeated Swarthmore 5-3 in a rematch of the 2007 championship on Sunday, April 27. This win improves the Blue Jays' overall record to 15-3 on the season, while Swarthmore fell to 12-6. With the win at the Conference Championship, the Lady Jays have earned the automatic qualifier spot to the NCAA Tournament.

Hopkins took first point in the doubles match when the team of sophomore Ellen Berlinghof and freshman Yasmine Elamir took the court and beat Jamie Midvette and Alexis Hickman 8-3 at third. Swarthmore responded at second by tying the match 1-1 when Erica Kukoski and Luanna Cinavitch beat sophomore Amanda Schubert and freshman Abby Dwyer 8-6. Sophomore Anita Bhamidipati and junior Brittany Matava shoved the Jays back in front 2-1 when they defeated Rachel Wallwork and Jennie Park 8-5 at first. Matava's win was her 44th career doubles win, and she broke Tanya Gulnik's record.

Heading into the singles, Hopkins had to make sure they didn't lose any ground; every game would be vital to the victory. Elamir defeated Midyette in her 17th straight victory, winning 6-0, 6-1 at third, making the lead 3-1 in Hopkins's favor. The Garnet's Park then beat Matava 7-5, 6-4 at second, bringing the Hopkins lead down to only one, making it 3-2. Dwyer aced the competition when she beat her opponent 6-1, 6-4 at fourth, taking the Hopkins lead back up to two, but then Wallwork made it a one-point match with a three-set win at first over Bhamidipati. The pressure was on Schubert to seal the victory for Hopkins at fifth

singles. Schubert soundly sealed the win for Hopkins when she beat Cignavitch 6-4, 6-0.

Because of their performances against Swarthmore, both Matava and Bhamidipati were named First Team All-Centennial Conference in both singles and doubles on Tuesday, April 29. Both ladies are 2007 All-Americans, and as a doubles team, they are 13-4 overall and undefeated in the Centennial Conference.

By clinching the divisional bid to nationals, the Lady Jays will take on the Cabrini College Cavaliers (14-3) in the first round when they head to Mary Washington College this weekend. The Cavaliers will put up a great fight for the Jays, having won the last four straight PAC titles, and Hopkins will certainly be taking their best game to Fredericksburg, Va. The match is set for 3:00 p.m. on Friday, May 2, and the winner will then face The College of New Jersey (12-6) at 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 3. On the other side of the tournament, Methodist (20-3) will take on Elizabethtown (13-3) in the first round, and the winners of that will host Mary Washington (20-3) on Saturday.

Looking ahead to the weekend, the Lady Jays have some great statistics to pump themselves up for this year's play-offs. In 2007, Hopkins made its first appearance in the NCAA tournament, and they beat Moravian in the first round. Unfortunately, they fell to Mary Washington in the second, and the ladies are ready for a rematch. On the coaching side, this is the Jays' fourth consecutive season in which they have won 10 or more games under head coach Chuck Willenborg, who has the most wins in program history. He has led his squads to an amazing 58-15 record in only four seasons, and hopes to add a national title to that impressive statistic this weekend.

W. Lax tops two, earning needed third seed

By SIMRAN HUNDAL
News-Letter Staff Writer

The Johns Hopkins women's lacrosse team broke .500 in both their ALC division (2-2) and their overall record (8-8) after defeating the Penn State and Ohio State teams this past week, on Saturday and Monday respectively.

The sudden burst of team chemistry and good play could not have come at a better time; The women are to play in the ALC Tournament this coming Saturday, in which they are now seeded third.

Sophomore Midfielder Kim Dubansky stated, "Our team is finally playing together and with confidence. This confidence started in our game against Northwestern. Though we lost, we played as a team and realized what we could do when we play together."

While in the Northwestern game the Lady Jays were unable to hold on to the lead they had built over the powerhouse North-

western Wildcats, they were able to come back from a four-point deficit at halftime against the Penn State Nittany Lions to eventually win with a final score of 10-8.

Hopkins showed signs of great potential, especially towards the end of the game, where in the last 22 minutes 26 seconds of the game the Ladies exploded on an unanswered five-goal run.

Among the key players for the game were Sam Schrum who led the Blue Jays with three goals and an assist. Senior midfielders Kadie Stamper and Kirby Houck also had solid outings, each with two-goal games.

On Monday, the Lady Jays had another key win in a soaked Homewood Field over conference rival Ohio State.

The game was extremely competitive and exciting, with numerous lead changes and star performances.

The first half went back and forth, finally ending with a 7-6 score in Hopkins's favor, despite

giving up a three-goal run within 33 seconds. However, in the second half, Hopkins never fell behind OSU and finally held on to win 13-12 after a last two-goal scare from the Buckeyes.

Among the many great performers the Lady Jays boasted, Houck led the way with five points, three goals for herself and two assists to her teammates. Schrum also donated three goals to the Hopkins score for the second game in a row.

These two games came at the most important part of the season, giving the Lady Jays great confidence and seeding heading into the ALC Tournament.

Dubansky realized what was at stake in these two games, stating, "This was a big win for our team because we needed to beat Penn State and then Ohio State to get a bye in our conference tournament and a third seed. In our conference tournament, we hope to play Vanderbilt and make up for our loss against them earlier in the season."

However Vanderbilt is not the only team the Jays hope to face for a second time this season. The Northwestern Wildcats, the number one seed in the tournament, defeated the Lady Jays earlier in April. The Hopkins squad is looking forward to the chance to go heads up against the team again, hopefully in the ALC tournament.

Freshman defender Brooke Lipinski spoke on behalf of the team, stating that they would love to see Northwestern come out of the upper half of the draw, "because we would love to see them again. The last time we played them, we only lost by two but we should have won."

These close losses seem to have been the Lady Jays' story of this season. However, Lipinski is not worried, stating, "Our team has recovered well since those losses; it just causes us to work harder. We want to see all of the teams we lost to earlier this year because we know we can beat them. Our goal is to win the ALC and move on to NCAA."

In the coming week we will see if that hard work will pay off. The Lady Jays will face off against the Vanderbilt team on Saturday in the ACL tournament.

Men's tennis sets sights on national tourney

By ERIC GOODMAN
Sports Editor

It was a festive atmosphere at Hopkins this past weekend, and the 15th ranked men's tennis team enjoyed a festive weekend in Baltimore as well, defending its Centennial Conference Championship title with 5-0 wins on consecutive days over Washington College and Haverford.

The Blue Jays entered the tournament as the number one seed, and faced the fourth-seeded Washington College Shoremen on Saturday in the semi-finals at Hopkins. The Jays blanked Washington 9-0 earlier in the season, and was looking to keep up the momentum they had built throughout the latter portion of the regular season, looking to remain undefeated against conference foes.

"We made sure to keep our focus knowing that beating a team twice in the same season is hard," said senior Rafael Roberti. "We knew they would come out strong. We just came out with more intensity."

Hopkins's three doubles teams got the ball rolling on another shutout, as the three pairs lost a combined four games. Freshman Casey Blythe and senior Joe Vasoontara won 8-1 at first doubles, seniors Matt Naftilan and Roberti won 8-2 at third doubles, and sophomore David Maldow and freshman Andrew Wang won 8-1 at second doubles.

"Doubles are so important because they set the tone for the singles. Our team came out firing and took a quick 3-0 lead, so the momentum was on our side," Maldow said.

Wang then proceeded to win third singles 6-1, 6-0, followed by Roberti winning at sixth singles with a 6-1, 6-2 win, the 98th victory of his career. Since in the Centennial Conference tournament they play a best of nine series, Hopkins's five wins clinched a victory for them, halting the four



ANGELI BUENO/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Sophomore Dave Maldow playing his way to a Conference title.

other matches.

The championship finals on Sunday would pit Hopkins against Haverford, who the Blue Jays defeated 5-1 last year in Baltimore for the Centennial Conference crown.

But due to rainy and cold weather, the matches were moved from Hopkins's outdoor courts to the indoor courts at the Cross Keys Athletic Club, about three miles from Homewood.

"We had played on those courts a couple of times for practice. Being indoors definitely gave us more of an advantage over Haverford, but we were disappointed in not being able to play outside on our home courts,

in front of our fans one last time," Roberti said.

The Blue Jays continued their domination in doubles against the Fords, dropping only five games in three matches. Blythe and Vasoontara shut out Haverford 8-0 in first doubles. Wang and Maldow won 8-2 in second doubles, and Naftilan and Roberti won 8-3 in third doubles. The win for Blythe was his 20th of the season in doubles, breaking the Blue Jays' single season record.

Blythe then continued his brilliant play in singles, blanking Marc Rudolph of Haverford 6-0, 6-0. The win was his 20th of the season in singles, placing him second on the Hopkins single-season win list behind Maldow, who broke the record earlier this season and has 23 wins. Wang then clinched the title in his singles match at third singles, winning handily 6-2, 6-0.

With the win, Hopkins earns an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament, where the team will participate

for the third consecutive season. The Blue Jays are the second seed in their region and have received a first round bye and will play The College of New Jersey on Saturday, May 3. Last season the Blue Jays reached the Sweet Sixteen, and the team is looking to make it even further this year.

"We are really on a roll right now," Roberti said, "and I don't imagine much to change in terms of our practice routine. We'll be out on the courts two to three hours a day and get ready for the NCAA's."

Maldow concurs, and said "There couldn't be better timing for NCAA's, we're all ready to earn a trip to the elite eight."



CONOR KEVIN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Sophomore defender Angela Hughes works to intercept a pass in an earlier game.

SPORTS

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK
AMANDA SCHUBERT, WOMEN'S TENNIS

A double dutch-ess of tennis and jump rope

By MARY DOMAN
News-Letter Staff Writer

Sophomore women's tennis player Amanda Schubert has made it pretty far in life. At only 19 years old, she's made it to one of the nation's top universities and has taken two Centennial Conference titles.

Just this week, she took a 6-4, 6-0 win over Swathmore to claim the Blue Jay victory. Most would attribute these achievements to long hours on the court, a personal tennis trainer or a magical tennis racket of sorts. Believe it or not, though, the secret to Schubert's success doesn't reside in her tennis racket.

"Although tennis has gotten me to the NCAA's, I have always said that jump rope has gotten me the furthest as a person," she said.

Amanda Schubert is not only an exceptional tennis player, but she's also a champion jump roper. She started jumping at a young age, and joined a local team in elementary school. "I was so into it, that I would jump rope for hours on my driveway after camp," she said. Her team, The Swingers, travelled all over Virginia and the East Coast, competing in local and regional compe-

titions. Even at a young age, Schubert thought her future was set: a life-long career of double-dutch and single rope (her two best events).

In junior high, her life bounced in another direction. "I started playing tennis in the

"When I was learning new jump rope tricks, I'd come home with whip marks all over the backs of my arms and legs," she said. "When I was learning new tennis skills, though, I'd only have maybe a sore forearm." What an upgrade!

These days, Schubert's past the days of learning the basics. This season, she's focusing on her doubles matches- "especially my volleys and court sense." These details fall into a lifelong relationship with her sport.

"Once you have the skills, tennis is something you can do your entire life," she said. "I'll definitely be one of those ladies playing in leagues at the local club!"

When she's not in the club, though, you might catch Schubert back on her driveway, jumping rope. "I like to jump rope in my spare time," she said. Schubert also jumps rope during tennis training to help her warm up and increase her heart rate.

And even though jumping rope may not have earned Schubert as many medals as playing tennis, Schubert's fans appreciate her jump rope skills just as much as her tennis skills.

"Wherever I have played tennis, whether I'm playing at a school or a club or a clinic, I've always had to give a jump rope exhibition," she explained. "Unfortunately, people tend to remember my jump rope skills over my tennis ones," she said, "...but that's alright."

Next time you see Schubert, make sure to congratulate her on her tennis accomplishments over the weekend. Then, maybe you could ask her for a little single-rope exhibition. If you're lucky, maybe she'll say yes!



CONOR KEVIT/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

7th grade, after I realized that jump rope was not yet an NCAA sport."

VITAL
STATISTICS

Year: Sophomore

Major: Philosophy

Hopkins Highlights:
Won clinching match in conference championship.

With tennis at first, the sport soon captured her heart. Tennis proved to hold as much, if not more, enjoyment than jump roping.

M. and w. crew have strong showing at regional finals

By ALEX IP
News-Letter Staff Writer

The men's and women's crew teams perpetuated their dominance in the water with a final tune-up before their Mid-Atlantic Collegiate Crew Championships this weekend.

Last Saturday, both squads participated in the Division III Regional Championships. The men took home the gold after overall team scoring was calculated, and the women had several big finishes as well.

The venue of Gifford Pinchot State Park in Pennsylvania presented a course length of 2000 meters, and the day was highlighted with the necessity for the unconventional floating starts.

This method of beginning a race is used in the absence of fixed starting platforms or stake boats. Crews are brought up to the line and aligned for the race by referees. This usually adds a challenge, but it did not seem to bother anyone this outing.

"The floating start actually went very well and there was little adjusting to do since the conditions were so nice, and keeping points during the race was not a problem either," sophomore Joshua Crist said.

The Blue Jay men started off the day with the varsity eight which included seniors Chris Vaglia and Josiah Drewien, junior Taylor Reese, sophomores Joshua Crist and Pete Ranieri, and freshmen Andrew Faulkner, Will Cooper and William Bagdorf who helped row a time of 6:01.40 to capture a first place finish.

The guys were initially behind second-place finisher Franklin & Marshall. But Hopkins turned up the throttle in the middle of the heat and held it until the end to pull ahead into open water.

"During the body of the piece we steadily gained seats ahead of [Franklin & Marshall]. At the 1200m mark we brought the stroke rate up a few beats," Crist said.

The next race carried the debut of the Hopkins women's varsity eight, in a noble attempt to try and qualify for nationals. The newly assembled team

featured senior Clare Blubaugh, juniors Rebecca Williamson, Vanessa Damm, Courtney Cunningham and Amelia Whitman, sophomore Rosi Martin and freshmen Pia Heilmann and Linda Zhou.

"The best women's eights came from all over and gave us pretty tough competition," co-captain Williamson said. "After a rough start to the season with lots of bad weather injuries and lineup changes, we were extremely proud of our results."

Despite all this, the girls scraped up a second-place finish out of six. Notable was also novice rower Zhou who stepped in to fill the gap of the eighth varsity member who was victim to one of those injuries.

As the meet progressed, teams were compensated with an increasing tailwind, though it did not greatly alter either team's game plan.

"You just learn to adapt the rowing technique depending on conditions, and trust your coxswain's calls," Williamson said.

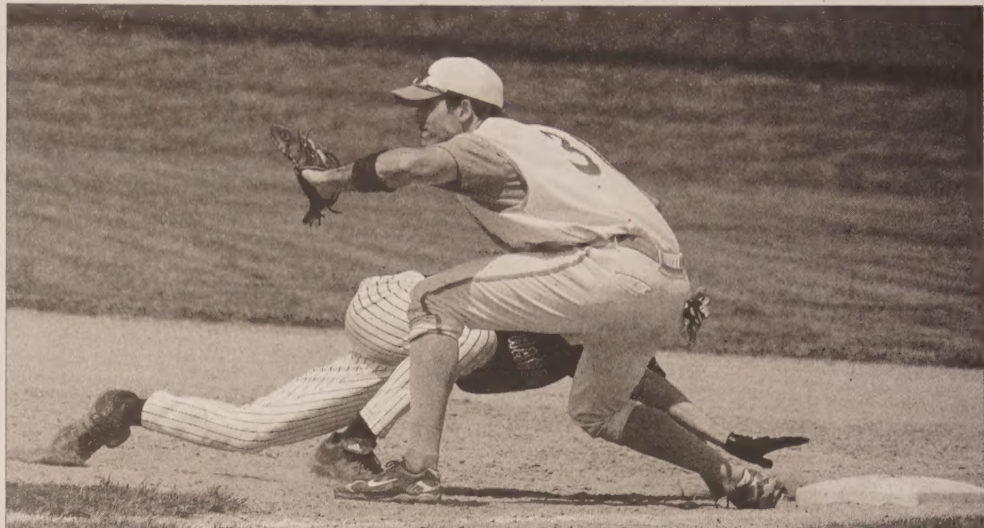
The two crews of Hopkins in the men's novice four rode the wind to times of 6:45.0 and 6:56.0 to chart at second and third place, respectively.

The novice eight crew also flashed their speed and notched a victory in their heat, coming in a full six seconds earlier than the next fastest team. The crew consisted of sophomore Adam Ammar, freshmen Daniel and William Bagdorf, George Reynolds, Christian Honore, Marcus Webb, Steve Cardinali and Max Thorsbakken.

The A-squad in the men's varsity four which consisted of Vaglia, Drewien, Faulkner and Cooper also had an impressive showing, crossing the finish line second with a time of 6:46.6. The Hopkins B-troupe followed behind in fifth, finishing 41.7 seconds later.

The Lady Jays sat out the varsity four, but capped off the meet in style with the varsity eight petite finals, taking silver in the event with a time of 7:10.1.

Both the men's and women's teams now look to carry their momentum into their penultimate regatta of the year, this Sunday at Lorton, Va.



ANGELI BUENO/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Matt Benchener grabs a Haverford runner at first base during Saturday's game against Haverford at the JHU baseball field.

Baseball splits two with Haverford

By JEREMY SELBST
News-Letter Staff Writer

The #13 Johns Hopkins Blue Jays went into Saturday's double-header against Haverford riding an 11-game winning streak. The streak, unfortunately, would not last through the weekend.

In the first game, Haverford scored a run in the second inning to go up 1-0, but Hopkins answered back in the third to tie the score at one. After the initial run by Hopkins, Haverford Stefan Pappius-Lefebvre was able to clamp down and shut down the Blue Jay bats.

In the fourth inning the Fords showed they had the offensive prowess to match Pappius-Lefebvre's arm, and were able to break the game open. Haverford's first baseman Steve Andelman hit a two-run home run off of Hopkins's senior Ryan Kuhlman to take the lead. The Fords continued their offensive dominance in the fifth, as they drove home another two runs off of Hopkins's fielding errors. The Blue Jays' offense fared no better against the strong outing of Pappius-Lefebvre, and it was not until the bottom of the fifth inning that senior center fielder and co-captain Rob Pietroforte was able to notch another run for the Blue

Jay offense via a sacrifice fly that scored fellow senior outfielder Jon Solomon. Haverford scored another two runs in the top of the seventh to seal the game and snap Hopkins's eleven game win streak by a final score of 7-2.

Hopkins was determined to not let its day end as poorly as it began though, and game two proved to be something of a statement game. The Blue Jays were able to get on the board first on senior right fielder Isaac Katz's RBI double. This offensive showing continued into the third inning as the Blue Jays drove home another three runs to stretch their lead to 4-0 on back-to-back doubles off the bats of junior second baseman Dan Merzel and sophomore designated hitter Brian Youchak.

The game seemed safely out of Haverford's reach due to Hopkins's offensive surge and the pitching of Pat Steffee. The top of the fourth proved to be a very different inning for the Fords though, as they scored six runs. The Fords also drove in an additional run in the fifth to turn what was a four run deficit into a three run lead.

Hopkins entered the seventh inning with the three run deficit looming. Youchak again came through for the Blue Jays, ripping his team-leading 17th double of

the year. Senior co-captain Todd Emr then hit a home run to close the gap to within one run. The Fords changed pitchers after Emr's homerun, but could not deny senior Jon Solomon from hitting another home run and tying the game at seven. Senior relief pitcher Ryan Kealy retired the side in the eighth inning to put Hopkins's destiny in its own hands.

After Isaac Katz's second double of the game, an attempt at stealing third caused Haverford's catcher to overthrow the third baseman, allowing the go-ahead run to score. In the ninth inning Kealy again stepped up and sat the Fords down in order to secure his fourth win of the season.

Sophomore Brendan Walsh said of the games, "They were both really tough. After losing that first one we wanted to come back and make a statement. After the first couple innings we really had to fight for the win, but in the end we got it."

The win was the Blue Jays 30th of the season, the seventh time in eight years that they have accomplished that feat. Hopkins finished first in the centennial conference and will host the conference tournament this weekend at the baseball field, taking on Muhlenberg on Friday at 3 p.m.

The strange and disturbing rituals of Hopkins sports teams

I'm fully convinced that the Patriots lost the Superbowl because I switched seats at half-time. Because I got a

haircut and shaved my beard before the game. Because my roommate got a new TV and I had to re-arrange the Patriots figures that previously sat atop it.

I wore the same Tom Brady jersey and the same New England knit cap (both unwashed all season) for every single game in the 2007 season. I covered myself in my emergency lucky blanket when games were close.

The sports world is one rich in ritual and superstition, not only for those die-hard fans who watch each game, but also for the players who actually suit up and play. This week, I spoke with several Hopkins athletes to find out what specific rituals they go through before or during a game or match. Some of the ones I found were relatively conventional. Some were just plain weird.

I sat down with two varsity wrestlers, sophomores Kyle Keane and James Gettinger and asked them how they felt about

any lucky charms or rituals that they perform before a match, only to find that they held two polar opposite views on the subject.

"I never brush my teeth before a match or a tournament, and I always try to do the same warm-up before a match," Keane said. A little bit gross, but it seems to have paid off, as the sophomore wrestler has found success in the sport in his first two years at Hopkins.

Gettinger, however, refused to believe that luck has anything to do with his performance. "You can't shower 24 hours before a weigh-in, but that's not superstition; that's science," he said. "You just go wrestle. No superstitions involved."

While the wrestlers' habits may not be the most hygienic, sophomore goalie Mike Gvozden for the Hopkins men's lacrosse team performs somewhat healthier rituals for his pre-game.

"The night before a game I throw away all film and scouting reports on the team we are to play," he said. "I also go get Rita's Italian Ice with a few of my

teammates. The day of the game I don't really have any rituals other than listening to music. I usually roll with Jordin Sparks, Michelle Branch and Natasha Bedingfield."

Even the top athletes at Hopkins aren't beyond performing a few superstitious acts before they play. Nationally ranked sophomore tennis player Dave Maldow has a very precise routine that he follows before and during each match.

"In between sets, I'll go towel off in the corner," he said. "Before a point, if I'm serving, I have a ritual of bouncing the ball five times, picking my spot on the court, then tapping my foot on the ground. Also, I listen to certain playlists like Van Halen or Jackson 5 before a match."

These rituals, however, aren't limited to the individual athlete. Several sports teams at Hopkins maintain long traditions in which the entire team participates.

Perhaps some of the oldest (and possibly strangest) traditions come from the generally wild characters of the Hopkins rugby team.

"After every match against another school the host team takes it upon themselves to procure beer for both teams to consume at the home team's rugby barracks," sophomore rugby player Christian Lewis said. "What ensues is a remarkably friendly (if not altogether civil) encounter, during which time both teams sing rugby songs. This is part of an old tradition and culture of friendly rivalry and thoroughly diseased senses of humor."

The team's so-called "diseased sense of humor" gets even sicker among the members of the actual team. Each rugby player, in their first semester on the team,

receives a nickname which they will go by for the remainder of their time involved in the sport.

"These are unquestionably offensive or inappropriate, but a rite of passage for any young player," Lewis said. "Humiliating to the outside world in most cases, names such as Caysian, Pinkd***, Tumor, Tits McGee and Tinkerbell have been given in the past. It further solidifies one's role in the greater social dynamic of

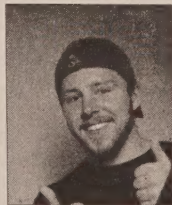
this school (or most schools elsewhere) as a rugger."

Sophomore lacrosse attack Brett Bathras said, "We do this thing called 'the pipe game.' At the end of a practice before a game, we all get a ball (including our coaches and our trainers) and we shoot at the cage but aim to hit a pipe. We don't really read into what it means if certain people do or don't hit pipes but it's just something fun that we have to do before every game no matter if we won or lost the previous game."

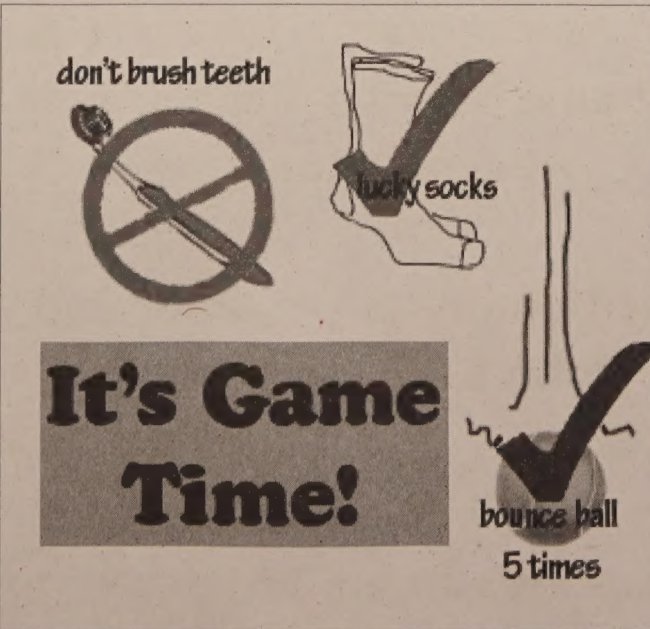
Sophomore Dante Ross of the Hopkins crew team takes part in a tradition that has gone on for several years, a tradition that could eventually cost him the very shirt off his back.

"Betting shirts is still a thing that all the big-name crew teams do," Ross said. "All the teams have shirts and you go out on a race, whether you're racing head-to-head or with a few other boats, and you decide before the race 'hey, let's bet shirts.' So whoever wins the race gets the shirt off the back of all the other rowers. It's one of our big traditions."

Strange, unhealthy and often disgusting, this is what Hopkins athletes go through to do what they do. The rituals and superstitions off the field may even be as important as their performance on it.



Demian Kendall
Out of Left Field



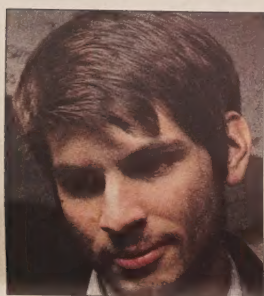
ANN FABER/GRAPHICS EDITOR

FAREWELL



Windows, left to right: Conor Kevit, Mary Doman, Matt Hansen **Sitting, left to right:** Liz Schwartzberg, Alex Begley, Anum Azam, Becky Wolff, Heather Barbakoff, Katlyn Torgerson, Sarah Sabshon **Standing, left to right:** Angeli Bueno, Demian Kendall, Ann Faber, Marie Cushing, Dylan Diggs, Sammy Rose Saltzman, Alex Traum, Sal Gentile, Laura Bitner, Alex Vockroth, Max McKenna, Cara Selick, Dana Covit **Not pictured:** Stephen Berger, James Freedman, John Kernan, Nate Min

Goodbye and good luck to our graduating seniors!



Salvatore "Yeah, I'm from NJ!" Gentile



Sammy "It's better in Manhattan" Saltzman



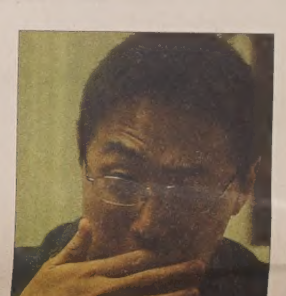
Alex "Bagel" Begley



Matt "Matthansen" Hansen



Dylan Diggs (a hole)



Nate "silent but deadly" Min

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Editors-in-Chief: We'll miss all your antics



To our dedicated business staff...

Thank you so much for all your help this year. There is no way the *News-Letter* would be where it is now without your hard work.

Charlie Arestia, Anum Azam, Dorothy Giannos, Scott Goldsmith, Minnie Lee, Mark Mehlinger, Scott Motejunas, Phil Roberts, Sebastian Salas-Vega, Rebecca Wolff, Jenny Wong